Friday, June 1, 2012 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 173 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DELIVERING to 4407 www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet Facebook: facebook.com/inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

Gov't spending spurs 6.4% growth in 1st quarter

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

By Riza T. Olchondra and Michelle V. Remo

BOOSTED by increased government spending, the Philippine economy as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 6.6 percent in the first quarter of the year, a growth rate that Malacañang says is the highest in Southeast Asia and the second highest in Asia.

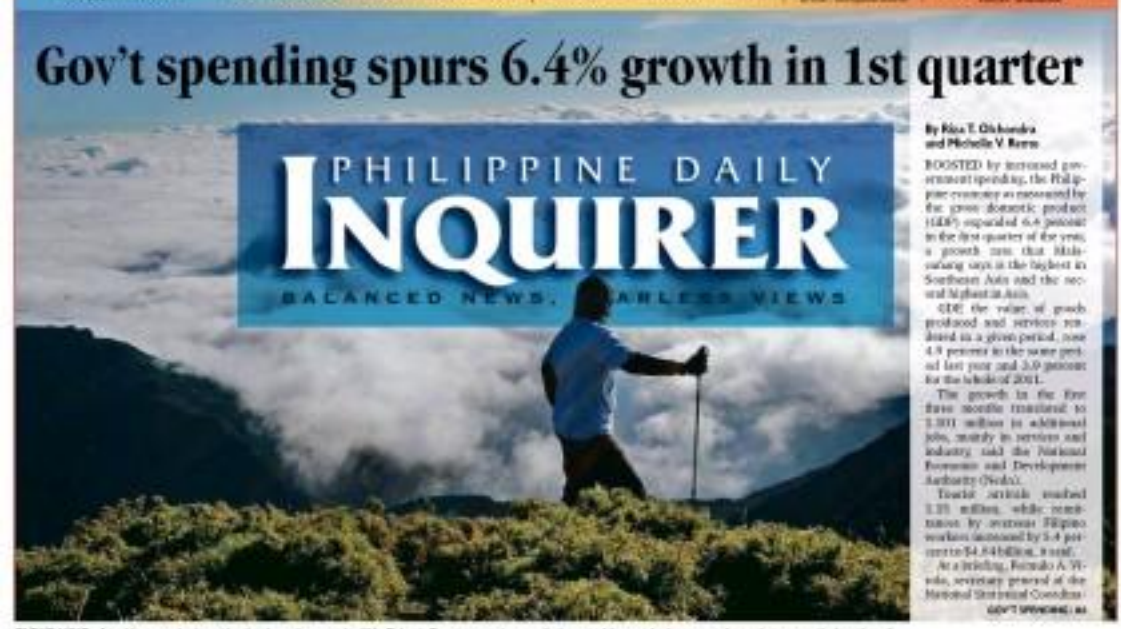
GDP, the value of goods produced and services rendered in a given period, rose 4.9 percent in the same period last year and 3.9 percent for the whole of 2011.

The growth in the first three months translated to 1.301 million in additional jobs, mainly in services and industry, said the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

Tourist arrivals reached 1.35 million, while remittances by overseas Filipino workers increased by 3.4 percent to $4.84 billion, it said.

At a briefing, Romulo A. Virola, secretary general of the National Statistical Coordina-

GDP'S SPENDING | A1



CLOUD NINE A trekker crouch above the clouds on the summit of Mt. Pulag in Benguet province as climbers, trekkers and other nature lovers hang on to the last days of summer to scale Luzon's highest peak before the rains come and make the effort difficult.

P-Noy won't sign waiver

Ex-CJ won't appeal conviction

By Marlon Ramos

PLEADING a potential constitutional crisis, Renato Corona has decided against challenging his ouster as Chief Justice by the Senate impeachment tribunal, his lawyer said yesterday.

Tranquil Salvador III said Corona, who went down in history as the country's first Chief Justice to be fired, felt it would be better for him, his family and the country if he would forgo pursuing any legal remedy questioning Tuesday's 20-3 vote convicting him of lying in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

"He feels that this is the right thing to do since he did not take advantage of his position. He did not do harm to anyone," Salvador said the decision over the phone.

"[Corona] wanted to avoid what others think would be a possible constitutional crisis. He was thinking of the best interest of the country," the lawyer said.

"He said he's already taken the high ground when he waived the confidentiality on his bank accounts and disclosed what he had to disclose."

Salvador said he spoke for 30 minutes yesterday morning with Corona in his hospital room at The Medical City, where he was taken after a spell of dizziness as a result of low blood sugar during his three-hour testimony in the Senate last week.

He said he was surprised when Corona told him that he was no longer interested in filing a petition for certiorari to the Supreme Court.

EX-CJ WON'T | A12

STANDARD-BEARER A public works employee prepares Philippine flags that will adorn the stretch of Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, Metro Manila's widest road, in preparation for the celebration of Independence Day on June 12. MARVIN BAUTISTA

No mercy: Gov't to hound Corona

By Norman Bordadora, Leila B. Salaverria and Christian V. Esguerra

NO MERCY.

After his conviction in the Senate impeachment trial and ouster as Chief Justice for dishonesty in submitting statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), Renato Corona is facing an investigation for alleged ill-gotten wealth and my enemies, administration officials said yesterday.

"As a result of revelations made during the course of the impeachment trial, certain agencies like the Office of the Ombudsman and the Bureau of Internal Revenue had initiated their own processes to look into possible violations of laws and rules over which they have jurisdiction and mandate to look into," Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said.

"I don't think that now that judgment has been rendered by the impeachment court, these processes will also terminate," Abad said in a text message to the reporters. "The administration will not, I believe, interfere in this."

NO MERCY | A7

Palace says Aquino not bound by Corona act

By Norman Bordadora and Christian V. Esguerra

NOT NOW.

President Aquino is not waiving his right under the laws to keep his bank accounts confidential even after Renato Corona's removal as Chief Justice for untruthful declaration of wealth.

Speaking at a news conference in Malacañang yesterday, deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte reaffirmed that Mr. Aquino declared during the presidential campaign in 2010 that he would waive his privilege of secrecy under the country's banking laws if elected President.

Valte said, however, that Mr. Aquino wouldn't sign any such waiver at this time.

"Let's go back to the context," Valte said. "It was the accused [Corona] who issued the challenge to court: Tara, Usisa and Harap who was willing to take on his dare. Is it fair to put the

PAGOY A11

Angry Birds spreads wings beyond the gaming world

TAMPERE, Finland—Air Rovio, the future is angry.

The Finnish gaming company behind Angry Birds—with more than 1 billion downloads to date—is now spreading its wings beyond the virtual world.

The company has already launched plush toys, lunch boxes, clothing, stationery, food and drink items, a Formula 1 driver sponsorship deal and a poetry book.

The last this week, Rovio announced it would launch an Angry Birds-themed debit card in Russia in partnership with a local bank.

ANGRY A11

Sister Flory: Let's abide by God's will

By Cheena Yu
Rappler.com

ABIDE by the will of God.

This was the advice given on Thursday by Sister Flory Ebesa to her estranged nephew-in-law, convicted Chief Justice Renato Corona.

The 60-year-old Franciscan missionary is one of the original owners of the company that Corona identified as the owner of the P34 million deposited in one of his bank accounts and the source of the P11 million he took out as cash advance.

Despite it's multimillion-peso asset, 91 percent of Ilaya-Gualdo Enterprise Inc. (IGEI), however, was sold at an auction for a mere P28,000 to his daughter, Carla Corona, the

SISTER A4

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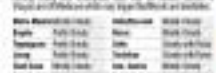
WEATHER FORECAST



Morales: Threats part of the job

By Leila B. Salaverria

OMBUDSMAN Conchito Carpio Morales remains undaunted by the grenade that was left outside her home on Wednesday as she continues to believe that she had not done anything wrong.

Morales also refused to speculate on the motive behind the incident, or whether the thought of it was related to the ongoing impeachment trial of dismissed Chief Justice Renato Corona.

She said she was not inclined to by the incident. "It's a fragile. It's pure steel. It's your name," she said.

"I know I'm in the embrace of God because I know I have not done anything wrong. I'm not trying to malign people just because they are not your allies," she added.

Morales' sentiments thought to have been a key factor in helping the 23 senator-judges convict Corona for failing to declare some of his assets in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

Morales took the stand at the impeachment trial of Corona as a hostile witness for the defense. Her presentation of a report she claimed to have obtained from the Anti-Money Laundering Council detailing the alleged dollar deposits of the Chief Justice was seen to have bolstered the case against him.

Morales said investor Secretary Jesse Robredo had suggested that the brief up her personal security.

"But you know, those things are part of the risks attendant to the position of the office," she said.

She said the closed-circuit TV camera system installed in her house was being reviewed. "If there is any security lapse, then we'll see," she said.

Morales said her family was doing fine and understood the nature of her job.

Scare tactic

"They're OK, they're cool. They know that's part of the trade, part of the position, part of the office," she said.

Police investigators said the grenade may have been placed outside Morales' house to scare her.

"When the grenade was found, the safety pin was still in place, which would mean it would not explode suddenly. It may also placed as a statement," said Chief Supt. Isidro Lapeña, director of the Southern Police District (SPD).

He said security guards found the M-26 hand grenade in a plastic bag and placed over the permanent lines of blunder fences, a few meters from the main gate, at around 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Also found inside the plastic bag was a sticker from a security guideline station, with the words "Ang dese kay CCM, ung malakii ito," written on it. Police have yet to decipher the message.

Lapeña said police have augmented the security detail around the Morales house at 9 Gupilo Compound, Soldiers Hills, Paranaque, Metrolmanila.

Chief Insp. Geronimo Martinez, head of the Metropolitan police intelligence unit, said they were reviewing footage from a security camera "but we cannot disclose details at this time."

Martinez agreed with Lapeña that the motive may have been to scare and not to detonate the grenade.

He said that when he interviewed Morales, she did not mention and could not recall any person or party that might send a threat.

Many other cases

"However, we are still looking at all possible angles. We have to understand that, aside from her testimony during the impeachment trial, she also handles many cases of the Ombudsman," Martinez said.

Meanwhile, officials yesterday said the hand grenade found outside Morales' house could not have come from the arsenals of the police or the military.

Robredo said a check of the records of the Philippine National Police (PNP) showed that the lot number of the M-26 hand grenade was not among the registered weapons of the police.

Armed Forces of the Philippines public affairs chief Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos, meanwhile, said the military did not have that type of grenade in its inventory. "What we have is the M82 (grenade), M61 (grenade) and M60 (machine gun)," he said.

Robredo said the motive for the threat on Morales was still not clear.

"The case that came with it sent a mixed message," he said.

Robredo said the "CCM" (presumably stood for Morales' initials and "para dyosa" could be a misspelling of "paraphernalia," as for the defense of Morales.

Robredo said Morales currently had a security detail that usually hosts, "which would have to be increased." With reports from Ed Sage and Norlhayati B. Macabalang

Black Hat Lama here for teachings

By Tina E. Santos

TIBETS Black Hat Lama—a Buddhist teacher incarnate older than the Dalai Lama—will arrive today in Manila for a series of prayers as well as empowerment and dharma or Buddhist teachings.

It will be the second visit to the Philippines of His Holiness Gyalwa Karmapa Trinley Thaye Dorje, believed to be the 17th reincarnation of the Gyalwa Karmapa since the 12th century.

The Buddhist spiritual leader is expected to arrive onboard Malaysian Airlines flight MH704 from Kuala Lumpur, where he had just completed a series of teachings. He is staying in the country until June 6.

The Karmapa Lama is the reincarnated head of the Karma Kagyu line of the four main schools of Tibetan Buddhism known to the rest of penetration school. It is focused on the yogic transmission of the dharma.

Known as the holders of the Black Crown or the Black Hat, Karmapa Lamas are from the most ancient lineage of Tibetan Buddhism's estabgreat figures, two centuries ahead of the Dalai Lama lineage.

Uplifting the consciousness and empowering the lives of Filipinos were the main theme of the three-day teachings imparted to the 10-year-old by the Karmapa Lama during his November 2006 visit.

This time, he will be holding workshops on the practice of compassion and dharma teachings with valuable techniques on "Transformation For Happiness" at the SGS Convention Center in Pasay City, according to the Philippine Nalandra Dharma Foundation.

Disband paramilitary forces now, AFP dared

By TJ Burgonio

HUMAN Rights Watch (HRW) yesterday scoffed at the military's pronouncement that it would disband its paramilitary forces in 2016 when the insurgents would have been flushed out.

"Disbanding the paramilitary forces is a welcome move but the Armed Forces need not wait for 2016 to do this. It should dismantle them now," HRW's researcher Carlos Conde said.

The HRW is the largest human rights organization based in the United States.

Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Bautista, the Army commanding general, earlier said the paramilitary forces will be the first to go in the downsizing of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Bautista said dismantling the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) and the Special Citizens Active Auxiliaries (SCAA) by 2016 was within the time frame of the AFP Internal Peace and Security Plan "Bayanihan" under the Aquino administration. By that time the military would be transforming its external defense, he said.

Cafgu troops, estimated at between 80,000 and 60,000, have been deployed by the military to fight insurgents in remote areas.

Conde noted that the Cafgu and the SCAA had a long history of human rights abuses in the country.

He said the government should heed the recommendations of several countries during Tuesday's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva to dismantle its paramilitary forces.

The United States urged the Philippines to "take new additional measures to ensure that the military exercises full control over Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units and the police over Civilian Volunteer Organizations, holding those units accountable for the Philippines' obligations under international human rights law," Conde said.

He said it was unrealistic for the military to disband the paramilitary forces once the communist New People's Army abandons its armed struggle.

"The government has a duty to protect human rights and punish state forces who violate those rights. This obligation is not contingent on the behavior of insurgent groups," he said.

Selective report

Meanwhile, Filipino activist members of the Philippine UPR Watch picketed UN headquarters in Geneva in protest of what they called the "selective" way the Philippine government reports on the human rights situation.

They said the report did not mention the failure to arrest retired Army major general Jovito Palparan over the 2006 abduction of activist students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño, but "glossed" over the ratification of international instruments and the approval of bills to improve human rights.

"Palparan's continued evasion of arrest and mockery of justice exemplifies the prevailing climate of impunity. This is probably the reason why the GPH failed to mention this important fact—to gloss over the nonexistence of justice for victims of human rights violations in the country and the continuing terror of rights activists," Cristina Palabay, European spokesperson and part of the UPR Watch delegation, said in an e-mail.

Coco water sales jump 260%

THE SALE of coconut water exports rose by 260.33 percent to $1.52 million in the first quarter of 2012, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) said in a statement.

PCA Administrator Euclelio Forbes said the Philippines sold 4.48 million liters of coco water in the first quarter, a 260 percent jump from the 1.24 million liters sold in the same period last year.

Forbes said that this year's volume of coco water export will exceed the 2011 total of 10.68 million liters. That was equivalent to $15.11 million in receipts, the PCA said.

Just like last year, the United States was the main buyer of Philippine coco water. Export earnings from the US increased by 626.73 percent to $1.99 million in the first three months of the year. American bought 2.72 million liters of Philippine coco water in the first quarter of 2012, against 796,607 liters in 2011.

When he visited the United States last year, President Aquino promoted coco water, assuring with US businessmen who had put up a coconut water processing firm in Pampanga that the government would help them source more coconuts for processing.

Coco water also made a strong showing in the Netherlands, which bought 189,000 liters from 51,000 last year, and Australia, which registered a 562.5 percent volume increase to 45,29 0 liters.

Forbes said coconut water had become a popular energy drink abroad because of its natural qualities and lack of chemical preservatives.

Coconut water is rich in potassium and magnesium, and contains a considerable amount of vitamin B which aids in strengthening the muscles, delaying fatigue and maintaining normal heart frequency.

It is also regarded as a good source of electrolytes and glucose and has been found suitable for intravenous rehydration. It is also a healthy and effective treatment for urinary tract infection.

Forbes insisted that the country needs to plant more coconut trees to be able to meet the growing demand for coconut products. He said the PCA is currently implementing an aggressive program to replace senile trees and fortify coconut plantations. Artemio L. Dumo

PH can't censure Syria–DFA

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE PHILIPPINES is not joining other United Nations member states in condemning the regime of President Bashar al-Assad for the massacre of more than 100 civilians in embattled Syria, Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said yesterday.

Instead, Del Rosario said his next message to the Assad government is "maintaining a strategic distance on the situation in Syria, as we are focused on the safety and welfare of several thousands of our people that remain there."

Several nations—including the United States, Japan, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Spain, Bulgaria, Turkey and the United Kingdom—have expelled Syrian diplomats in a coordinated move against Assad.

Del Rosario said the Philippines could not do the same. "There are no Syrian diplomats in the country so there is no resident embassy in Manila," he said.

The UN Department of State said in a statement that it held the Damascus government "responsible for the slaughter of innocent lives." It called the massacre "the most recent, heinous indictment to date of the Syrian government's flagrant violations of the UN Security Council obligations."

Survivors of the massacre likened it to a bloodbath. Activists say some of the slaughter victims were found gunned to death, with their hands tied behind their backs.

According to the Associated Press (AP), the Houla massacre "could put new pressure on international envoy Kofi Annan, who has been trying to end the violence in Syria since March 2011 with peaceful protests inspired by the wave of uprisings sweeping the Arab world."

Earlier, Del Rosario said that unlike the US Embassy in Damascus, the Philippine mission would remain "as long as twelve-twelve Filipino workers there [who] need help."

Majority of the remaining 8,000-plus Filipino migrant workers in Syria have ignored the government's offer, prompting the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to intensify its efforts to find them and convince them to leave the country.

Del Rosario said the repatriation of Filipinos in Syria was a "work in progress."

Yesterday, two more migrant workers were scheduled to be repatriated by the government, bringing to 1,567 the total number of Filipinos returned by the DFA from Syria.

The DFA said some 90 Filipino workers were "set to come home as hotel jobs continue to pile the Middle East nation."

"The hallway homes being operated by the Philippine Embassy in Damascus is keeping its doors open to Filipinos seeking refuge from the violence while DFA teams continue to locate those who are still still in their employers," the DFA said.

In December, the DFA ordered a mandatory evacuation for Filipinos in Syria, mostly undocumented domestic helpers.

DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez said the evacuees in Damascus was "moving all possible efforts to bring more of our kababayans out of harm's way."

So far, the government has released over P6.25 million [about $127] million for the repatriation of migrant workers in Syria.

The OFA spends an average of P6,000 for the repatriation of every migrant.

Help me, Pinay pleaded with aunt in PH

FRANTIC as the flames spread in a mall fire that killed 19 people in Doha, Qatar, Filipina nursery school teacher Julie Ann Sano made one final call to her cell phone. "I'm dying, help me. I'm going to die," she pleaded with her aunt in the Philippines.

There was nothing the aunt could do.

Luminosa Sooo told The Associated Press yesterday that she did not understand what the problem was and asked her niece to stop crying. The line was cut shortly after. Neither she nor Julie Ann's mother, a caregiver in Egypt, was able to reach her again.

Julie Ann, 25, and two other Filipina teachers were among the dead in Monday's fire at the Villaggio, the Gulf nation's biggest mall. Thirteen children at the Gymboree Nursery School, a daycare center in the mall where he and the others worked, were also killed.

Qatar has issued arrest orders for the owner of the fire-ravaged mall and four others as investigators widened the possible ruling inquiry during a blaze.

The official Qatar News Agency said Attorney General Ali bin Fetais al-Marri also ordered the detention of the owner of the child care facility where the children and four workers died. The others facing arrest are mall officials, including the director of security.

Sooo's aunt said her niece had planned to come home for a vacation in October, when she would have worked in Doha for two years.

She wanted to have a blessing in December for a newly built home for her family that she had helped finance, and to have a reunion with sons and cousins she had regularly sent money to.

The nursery teacher was an only child. Her mother, a single parent, has been working in Egypt for more than five years. Luminosa helped raise Sooo in their hometown of Compostela.

"It really pains her mother that they had not seen each other for many years, and now they will be together but her daughter is already a corpse," said her aunt in a telephone interview.

The mother is scheduled to return to Catabato next week, when Julie Ann's body is expected from Qatar for burial, the aunt said.

"She was a very good child. She had no problems with her" her aunt said, her voice cracking. AP

BACK TO SCHOOL WOES Locals shopping for supplies and other needs, including school bags at this department mall in Davao City. Classes resume next week all over the country.

FREE HAIRCUT There's nothing like a fresh haircut to prepare a 3-year-old boy for kindergarten. Joshua Cuampes gets his from his uncle at a barber shop in Davao City, presumably for free.

Sister Flory: Let's abide by God's will

From page A1

solo builder.

"The only thing to do is to abide by the will of God. Every thing that has happened is part of God's plan for us," Sister Flory said in an interview.

Sister Flory said God's grace was also at work when Cristina, the ousted Chief Justice's wife, hugged the Basa siblings—Ana, Carmelyn, Isabelle, Francesca and Eric—in reconciliation while the televised impeachment trial was at a break on May 25.

The siblings, children of Jose Maria Basa III who was convicted of libel for a public notice against his niece Cristina, came all the way from the United States and Canada to watch Cristina take the witness stand on May 22.

In his long opening statement, Cristina spoke of a family feud between the Basas and his wife over BGH and a two-hectare land in Lilo, Quezon City. He called Jose a spoiled brat and jobless, causing the Basa siblings much discomfort. The Basas and their cousin Cristina are embroiled in a protracted legal battle over the inherited properties.

But when a contrite Cristina returned to the witness stand days after he walked out of the courtroom, the Basas and the Coronas reconciled.

"There was unanimity. They looked eye-to-eye. I felt that the Lord was talking to them, and I'm happy about that," Sister Flory said of her nieces and nephew who have been estranged for almost 30 years.

Sister Flory said Ana had assured us being here in the Senate trial, but she declined. Instead, she watched the proceedings on television at the convent in Cavite.

Cristina's mother, Asuncion, and Ana's father, Jose, were among the five original owners of BGH. The others were Hans Basa, Sister Concepcion and Sister Flory, who is the only surviving owner.

On Tuesday, the Senate impeachment court found Corona guilty of culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust for violating in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth his $2.4-million deposit in four bank accounts and 500 million pesos of deposits in other banks which he said belonged to him and his relatives.

During the trial, Corona said he did not declare a P36-million bank deposit in his SALN because it belonged to BGH. The amount represented the proceeds from the sale of a BGH property to members of the executive government of Manila.

But Ana said Corona used his legal connections to make sure Cristina would get to collect the proceeds of the sale as the alleged owner of BGH.

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Governors: Let's not waste chance to clean gov't

THE REMOVAL of Chief Justice Renato Corona from office is a "fantastic opportunity to clean up government which our public officials never met squarely," the national president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) said yesterday.

"The Filipino people have been given a fresh start to match our words with action. The Senate vote can become truly meaningful if we move on the path it has restored us, sound good governance," said Gov. Alfonso Umali, LPP president.

Gov. Abraham Mitra of Palawan, the LPP publication and information chief for Luzon, said the impeachment trial put not just the country's highest magistrate on trial but the entire fabric of government as well.

"Now that the standard in public service has been raised, every public servant must follow from the highest to the lowliest," Mitra said.

Umali praised the conduct of the impeachment court for serving as a judicious and non-contentious decision-signifying its resolve not to be swayed either by public opinion or media reporting on the issues.

Umali also called for an end to the partisan divisions caused by the trial and asked President Aquino to lead the way in bringing about true national reconciliation.

"What justice has been served, the President must equally lead the way in bringing about a reconciliation of our nation," he said.

The President can best lead this way because he has shown his capacity to summon the best from the Filipino people, he said.

GMA is next, solon warns

ARAMBURO Rep. Rafael Mariano yesterday said the ousting of Chief Justice Renato Corona should now lead to the trial and conviction of his benefactor, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Mariano challenged President Aquino to also muster all the powers of his office to bring Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative, to jail and make her pay for her crimes against the people during her presidency.

Arroyo, who is battling a rare neck ailment, is under hospital arrest in connection with electoral sabotage.

He said that Amaknongs signed the impeachment complaint against Corona because it believed that the then Chief Justice was a major stumbling block to the prosecution and conviction of Arroyo.

"The public has yet to see sincere efforts from Aquino toward Arroyo's punishment and restitution of his grasping people's assets, including poverty, unemployment, landlessness, low wages, social injustice, among others," Mariano said.

Mariano said Arroyo had amassed ill-gotten wealth, committed plunder and other heinous crimes and human rights violations against the people. Cynthia D. Rodeo

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House bills filed against stalking

ATTENTION: no parties! Be on the lookout for three pending House bills which seek to define and penalize the crime of stalking.

According to the proponents of the bills presently on anti-stalking law, the current civil and criminal remedies or recourses are inadequate to prevent the crime of stalking.

The House committee of justice, chaired by Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., is expected to consolidate the three related bills: House Bill No. 5009 authored by Camarines Sur Rep. Dinky Doc Andaluz Maloppol and his mother, Pangasinan Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; HB 5167 by Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero III; and HB 5114 authored by Representative Lorna Teng and Marinos Richard Velarde of the Bicol party-list group.

Civil Code cited

Article 26 of the Civil Code of the Philippines, or Republic Act No. 386, provides that "Every person must respect the dignity, personality, privacy and peace of mind of his neighbors and other persons."

It states that the following and similar acts, though they may not constitute a criminal offense, shall produce a cause of action for damages, prevention and other relief: Prying into the privacy of another's residence; meddling with or disturbing the private life or family relations of another; intriguing to cause another to be alienated from his friends; vexing or humiliating another on account of his religious beliefs, lowly station in life, place of birth, physical defects or other personal conditions.

Intimidation

Former President Arroyo, who is under hospital arrest on electoral sabotage charges, said the act of stalking or its accompanying behavior was a violation of such constitutional right as privacy in movement, breathing, frightening and intimidating with purpose. It is a form of disguised intimidation, which may be a subtle attempt at harassment.

Under the bill proposed by the drivers, the penalties range from imprisonment of six months to six years and/or a fine of not more than P500,000, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Cynthia D. Rebong

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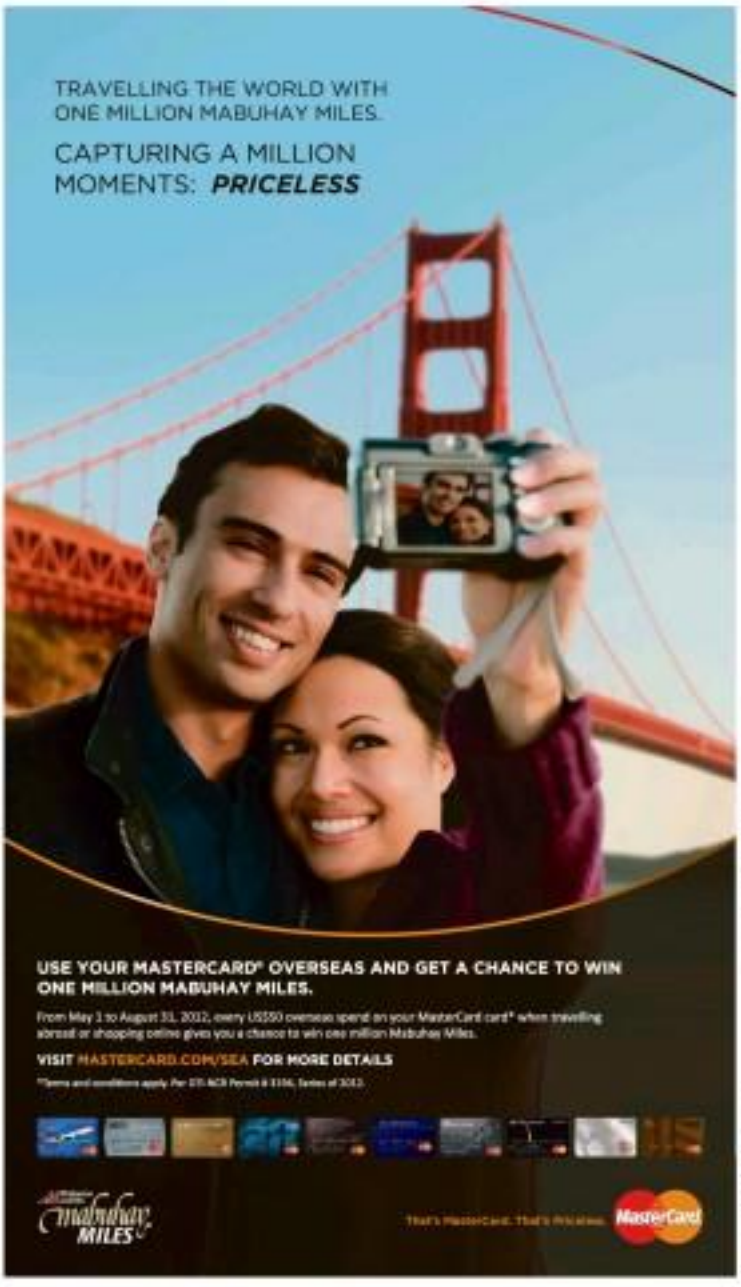

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HIGHRISES Labor-intensive buildings are a construction boom that helped fuel economic activity in the first quarter of 2012. KIMBERLY JACOB

Gov't spending spurs 6.4% growth in 1st quarter

From page A1

tion Board, said investors continued to be attracted by the country's economic fundamentals.

"Government spending will likely slow, as already reflected in the April numbers," BSP said.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that government spending grew by 9 percent to P122 billion in April from a year ago. This was slower than the nearly 20 percent rate recorded for the first quarter.

HSBC said a 6.1 percent growth for the full year was a realistic projection. Although unfavorable developments still may dampen growth in the remainder of the year, the economic dynamic for 2012 is still believed to be better than that in 2011, it said.

"Even with a slowing of growth in the coming quarters, growth would still accelerate to 6.4 percent from 3.9 percent in 2011," HSBC said.

Above market forecast

Antonio M. Balatbat, the newly appointed socioeconomic planning secretary said the first-quarter growth was well above the market's consensus forecast of 4.8 percent.

Also, the Philippines posted the highest growth among Asean and other neighboring countries except China," said Balatbat, who is also the Neda director general.

Robust net growth by the quarter was supported by another solid government spending including those for infrastructure and conditional cash transfer programs, which supported household consumption, better than anticipated exports performance, continued credit expansion, remittances, tourism, and business and consumer confidence.

Stimulus package

The government late last year announced a P72-billion stimulus package to cushion the worst seen from Europe's debt crisis.

Robust net growth in the January-March period may be cushioned in the second quarter and may even accelerate for the rest of the year.

"The continued strong inflows of remittances, robust inbound tourist receipts and low inflation environment contributed to significant increases in employment creation, particularly in the services sector which fueled consumption," he said.

Fighting target

For the whole of 2012, the "fighting target" for GDP growth is still 6 percent to 6.4 percent although there is a possibility that actual growth may exceed that level, Balisacan said.

Higher growth would help the Philippines meet its target growth of 7 to 8 percent from 2013 to 2016.

Undersecretary Abigail Valte, a spokesperson of President Aquino, said the first-quarter GDP growth validated the optimistic outlook of the President and the economic team.

"We are confident that the positive trajectory of our GDP growth will be sustained in the latter quarters of this year, which have traditionally demonstrated more robust and dynamic economic performances," Valte said.

Slowdown, euro crisis

HSBC said the country's surprising growth in the first quarter may slow down in the remainder of the year, saying the risks to the euro zone may stunt the increase in export strategy and continuous to decelerate.

Standchart, the international financial services firm said the country's GDP was still likely to register a faster growth this year at 4.4 percent from last year's 3.9 percent.

"Overall, while continuing to be robust, will likely slow in the next quarters," HSBC said in a report.

"Exports, although expected to record positive growth, will remain low and exposed to a more moderate pace due to the worsening euro zone crisis, the slowing down of China, as well as the gradual decrease of consumer confidence in the developed areas," it added.

In the first quarter, according to the National Statistics Office, exports grew by 4.6 percent to $12.86 billion from a year ago. The first year, the United States, and China are the country's major export markets.

HSBC said traditional export growth may decelerate also because of the crisis in Europe that could dampen demand for its import workers and machinery.

Decelerating spending

Another factor that could trigger a slowdown in economic growth in the rest of the year is a potential deceleration in government spending.

"Government spending will likely slow, as already reflected in the April numbers," HSBC said.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that government spending grew by 9 percent to P122 billion in April from a year ago. This was slower than the nearly 20 percent rate recorded for the first quarter.

HSBC said a 6.1 percent growth for the full year was a realistic projection. Although unfavorable developments still may dampen growth in the remainder of the year, the economic dynamic for 2012 is still believed to be better than that in 2011, it said.

"Even with a slowing of growth in the coming quarters, growth would still accelerate to 6.4 percent from 3.9 percent in 2011," HSBC said.

Sustainability doubted

Benjamin E. Diokno of the University of Economics said the trend that the better-than-expected economic growth may not necessarily be sustainable.

"Is the Indio-Saturnino economic growth the result of playing around with price deflators? For example, agriculture shrunk by 3.1 percent in nominal terms; yet it increased by 1 percent in real terms. That's silly unless the exception fell during the period, which Beni didn't."

Diokno also pointed out that export growth in reeling imports growth, as shown in government figures, was "unusual" because of the small growth in exports.

He said that may indicate that imports, especially electronic products that make up the bulk of shipments, must really be low given the recent rise in petroleum imports.

"Critically, the problem of imports is not sustainable and perhaps not even consistent with strong growth in the future. The global market is shrinking and volatile. The growth of the Philippine economy should be based on domestic demand," Diokno said.

'Worrisome' trend

He also noted that there was a "worrisome" trend in construction, which he said gave an bust effect.

"Public construction as the first quarter of 2011 was horrendous. The worrisome trend is the behavior of private construction which started to stall in the second half of 2011. Private construction plummeted 9.9 percent in the first quarter of 2012 from a strong expansion of 23 percent in the first quarter of 2011," he said.

Set up PPPs

"This suggests that the government has to step up its public-private partnership projects (PPPs) and the implementation of its infrastructure program," Diokno said.

Private construction accounts for about three-fourths of total construction. PHS newspaper Inquirer.Net Business

CLASSIFIEDS

CHEd: There's gender gap in college, work

By Tarra Quismundo

MORE women finish college than men in the Philippines, but this has yet to be reflected in the work force.

Filipino women's gains in higher education, "do not necessarily translate to social and economic advancement," said Commissioner on Higher Education (CHED) Chair Patricia Licuanan as she unveiled these statistics to be dominated by men.

This even as women have outnumbered male college graduates for over a decade, data from the National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB) has shown.

"There are more males employed than females, Women still lag behind in entering higher paying and more regular jobs. Women generally occupy lower positions in the occupational hierarchy. The average daily basic pay of women for labor is less lower than men," Licuanan told the business.

The CHED chair was asked her take on the gender gap in higher education, which is not unique to the Philippines but is apparently a global trend.

The NSCB figures showed that 209,877 of 486,862 Filipino college graduates (by percent) in 2010 were women. Male graduates numbered 233,985 or 44 percent of the total. The rest, while there were both college graduates from the aged 20 to 24 (11.9 million), 11.01 million (women) in the population.

Freedom to play

Licuanan said this may be attributed to the way girls and boys are brought up, where girls are taught to be chosen around the house early while boys "are allowed more freedom to play".

"This early socialization may account for the fact that girls and later on young women are 'better students,' i.e. they work harder, perform better and are less likely to drop out of school," she explained.

On the flip side, she said, the deepened role among male students should be looked into as "there may be gender patterns in males to get jobs even before graduation."

The difference between female and male graduates was very pronounced in previous years. 56.6 percent female graduates against 43.3 percent male graduates in 2006 and 61 percent female graduates against 39 percent male graduates in 2004.

Women have been engaging themselves with higher education before that time. However, the gender disparity has increased with the share of women graduates going down from 61 percent in academic year 2008-09 to 56 percent in AY 2009-10," said the NSCB report which was released recently.

The report cited "that because Female Inclined the Orderliness of our Nations Capital," also noted the slow rise in the number of graduates of higher education courses, especially in critical studies like the sciences, engineering and education.

"Women probably still have more catching up to do, but if this trend will in force of recurrent pressure, shouldn't men need perpetuate gender status in household head in the future?" the NSCB report said.

Women remain underrepresented

And the women may indeed have to catch up as they remain underrepresented in positions that involve decision-making, noted Licuanan.

"In the Philippines, there is a wide gap in the participation rates of men and women in decision-making bodies tracking, wherein women are disenrolled more women than are currently attentive of their domestic responsibilities while men acquire more marketable skills and enjoy more earning power, only aggravates the already unequal opportunities available to women," Licuanan said.

Courses with high female enrollment include liberal arts, home economics, nursing and teaching, said Licuanan. Male are inclined toward the law, agriculture, engineering and natural sciences.

But once out of school, the gender disparity swings back to the men's favor.

For instance, she noted, more women are enrolled in science courses and there are more female researchers.

"However, more universities women in the top-level posts of the educational system. Only 15 percent of state university and college presidents are women," Licuanan pointed out.

Dingdong is youth's disaster czar

By DJ Yap

Still time, he has been cast in the unruly role of a youth leader for national disaster preparedness.

Movie and television actor Dingdong Dantes yesterday paid Camp Connor a visit to lead on the launch of a nationwide campaign to raise awareness of disaster preparedness among the youth in an elementary school located within the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters.

Through his Yes Pinoy Foundation (YPF), Dantes joined hands with Secretary Jesse Robredo in pushing the project to promote the government-initiated disaster preparedness drive, focusing on the country's 18 major river basins and communities sitting on the West Valley Fault line.

Dantes joined the band by young people to improve their "physical, emotional and psychological capacity to face natural calamities brought about by the disastrous onslaughts of climate change."

The actor cited figures from the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, which stated that "for every 10 persons displaced by disaster, four to five of them are children or youth."

Without a chance

"What Islam shall we speak of when our hearts of tomorrow are being decimated without those even having the chance to intelligently defend themselves?" he said in his speech at Camp Crame Elementary School.

In cooperation with the National Youth Commission (NYC), the YPF will train communities through the "Tara Pumplan, para sa Kabataan" program on safety measures to take the big calamities resulting from climate change.

The YPF has trained some 24,000 people, mostly students in cities and towns in Metro Manila and the southern and Central Luzon areas.

"There is an future that we can speak of when we cannot defend as at least make our young people prepare, through awareness, for the onslaught of disasters. Our local government should also give equal emphasis to this important task," Dantes said.

Robredo said YPF and the NYC would boost the Department of the Interior and Local Government's own regional "Tapatan Caravan for Disaster Preparedness," which advances to smaller cities.

"The purpose not for researches but for drives, and what we're prepared... more than to have the young people themselves!" Robredo said.

He said Dantes would act as the DILG's "youth mobilizer." Inspiration and zeal are for the government's disaster preparedness drive.

"In key select cities or rural drives as the DILG's regional disaster preparedness campaign, Dantes has agreed to take part in the training program with the DILG," Robredo said.

Ligtas, Maaasahan at Abot Kaya!

DOTC

P297 M Airport Screening and Security Systems

INVITATION TO BID

The DOTC is further improving air travel safety and security by procuring a properly layered passenger, baggage, and cargo screening system for various airports in the Philippines.

The DOTC is inviting foreign and local suppliers to participate in the open and transparent bidding process for **THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, AND COMMISSIONING OF ONE (1) LOT OF PASSENGER AND BAGGAGE SCREENING EQUIPMENT, with the following seven (7) components:**

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21 Units
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2

25 Units
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3

9 Units
TSA Qualified Cargo Security-Check Point X-Ray

4

46 Units
Walk-Through Metal Detectors

5

300 Units
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49 VIDEO RECORDERS, one for each of the 43 airports and the four NAIA Terminals, and at least four (4) cameras for each of the 143 X-ray units distributed in the 43 airports.

7 **148 sets/units** of each of the following peripherals:

Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)
Minimum of 1kVA Input voltage (208VAC); Output Voltage (120VAC +/- 3% Input Range 115-275 VAC, 10 mins hold up time

Surge Protector
Distribution of 10kV, voltage surge +15% - 20%, voltage surge (sag/interference +/-40%

Ergonomic chair for the x-ray operator

Cost of Bid Documents	: Php P100,000.00
Issuance of Bid Documents	: 31 May 2012 to 09 July 2012
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Conference	: 08 June 2012, 9:00AM
Date and Time of Deadline for Submission and Opening of Bids	: 09 July 2012, 9:00AM

- The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is ~~PHP4,000,000,000.00~~ (PHP 4B ONLY/00/100).
- Interested bidders may obtain the Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) only to the DOTC Cashier. They may also inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain additional information from the Office of the BAC Secretariat from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Columbian Forms Manufacturing Co. or it may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and at **http://www.dotc.gov.ph**; provided that the bidder shall pay at the time the Bidding Documents are secured the fee for the submission of their bids.
- Nothing in upon or in the Bid Documents, whether here or hereby, relieve the bidder of his responsibility pursuant to the Bid of the Procured the Bidding Documents.
- The Bids and Awards Committee will hold the Pre-Bid Conference on 08 June 2012 at 9:00 AM at the DOTC Conference Room, 10th floor, The Columbian Tower, Ortigas Ave., Brgy. Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City, which shall be open to all interested parties.
- The DOTC assumes no responsibility whatsoever on passengers and commercial bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

For further information, please refer to:

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E-mail address: **dotcbacsec@yahoo.com**
Website: **http://www.dotc.gov.ph/**

Postings from 31 May 2012 on the PhilGEPS, DOTC and ETC Websites & Bulletin Boards, and advertised in the Manila Bulletin on 31 May 2012, the Philippine Star and the Philippine Daily Inquirer on 1 June 2012.

Delivery

The foregoing equipment under components no.1 to no.7 are to be delivered at the following airports (estimated within 150 calendar days upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed):

Airport	Security Screening Equipment				
	QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY
1 Bacolod				4	
2 Basco				4	
3 Busuanga				4	
4 Caticlan (Boracay)	4	1	4	4	1
5 Cauayan				4	
6 Cebu	4	1	4	4	1
7 Clark	4	1	4	4	1
8 Coron				4	
9 Cotabato				4	
10 Davao	4	1	4	4	1
11 Dipolog				4	
12 Dumaguete				4	
13 Iloilo	4	1	4	4	1
14 Kalibo				4	
15 Laoag	4	1	4	4	1
16 Legazpi				4	
17 Masbate				4	
18 Mamburao				4	
19 Naga	4	1	4	4	1
20 Ozamiz				4	
21 Pagadian				4	
22 Puerto Princesa	4	1	4	4	1
23 Roxas				4	
24 San Jose				4	
25 Siargao				4	
26 Surigao				4	
27 Tacloban	4	1	4	4	1
28 Tagbilaran				4	
29 Tuguegarao	4	1	4	4	1
30 Zamboanga				4	
NAIA Terminal 1				168	
NAIA Terminal 2				168	
NAIA Terminal 3	21	25	46	300	49

Legend:
QTY - Units
CPU - Computer Processing Unit
NAIA - Ninoy Aquino International Airport
BCDR - Back-Up Digital Video Recorder

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICE FOR TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

Gov't workers get pay increase

By Aurora M. Domingo

THE WAGE increases for government workers will take effect today or a month ahead of schedule, according to Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad.

Salary and loan pay increases under the Salary Standardization Law III were originally set for July 1, but President Aquino's announcement on Labor Day advanced its implementation, said Abad.

He said P24.7 billion had been earmarked to fund the fourth installment of pay increases provided for in SSL III.

Of the total, P21.7 billion will come from the unauthorized personnel benefits fund of the General Appropriations Act of 2012, while P2.7 billion will be charged against savings from the national budget.

"The implementation of the fourth tranche should help government employees respond better to the rising cost of living and price increases for basic commodities," Abad said.

"The pay raise may give them a much-needed boost for paying tuition and academic fees, especially since schools will be reopening soon," he added.

Abad said the President, the Vice President and all Cabinet members will not be getting their pay increases until July 1.

He also clarified that individuals and groups engaged through job orders, contracts of service and other similar agreements were not covered by the salary increase.

Also excluded are civilian personnel in government instrumentalities that are exempt from the Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989. These instrumentalities are authorized by law to adopt and implement their own compensation and position classification systems, provided that the Office of the President approves such systems.

Abad said pay increases for employees of government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) would be charged against their respective corporate funds in their approved corporate operating budgets.

On the other hand, the pay increases for those working for local government units would be charged against the respective local government funds.

Last month, Abad said the fourth tranche of the salary increase for employees in GOCCs and GFIs may also be implemented using provided that they had the financial capability to do so.

As for the salary increases of employees in LGUs, Abad said these were still scheduled for Jan. 1, 2013, assuming that the LGUs implemented the third tranche on Jan. 1.

Abad said pay hikes in LGUs were subject to the decision of provincial and municipal boards, and would also depend on the availability and sustainability of local government funds.

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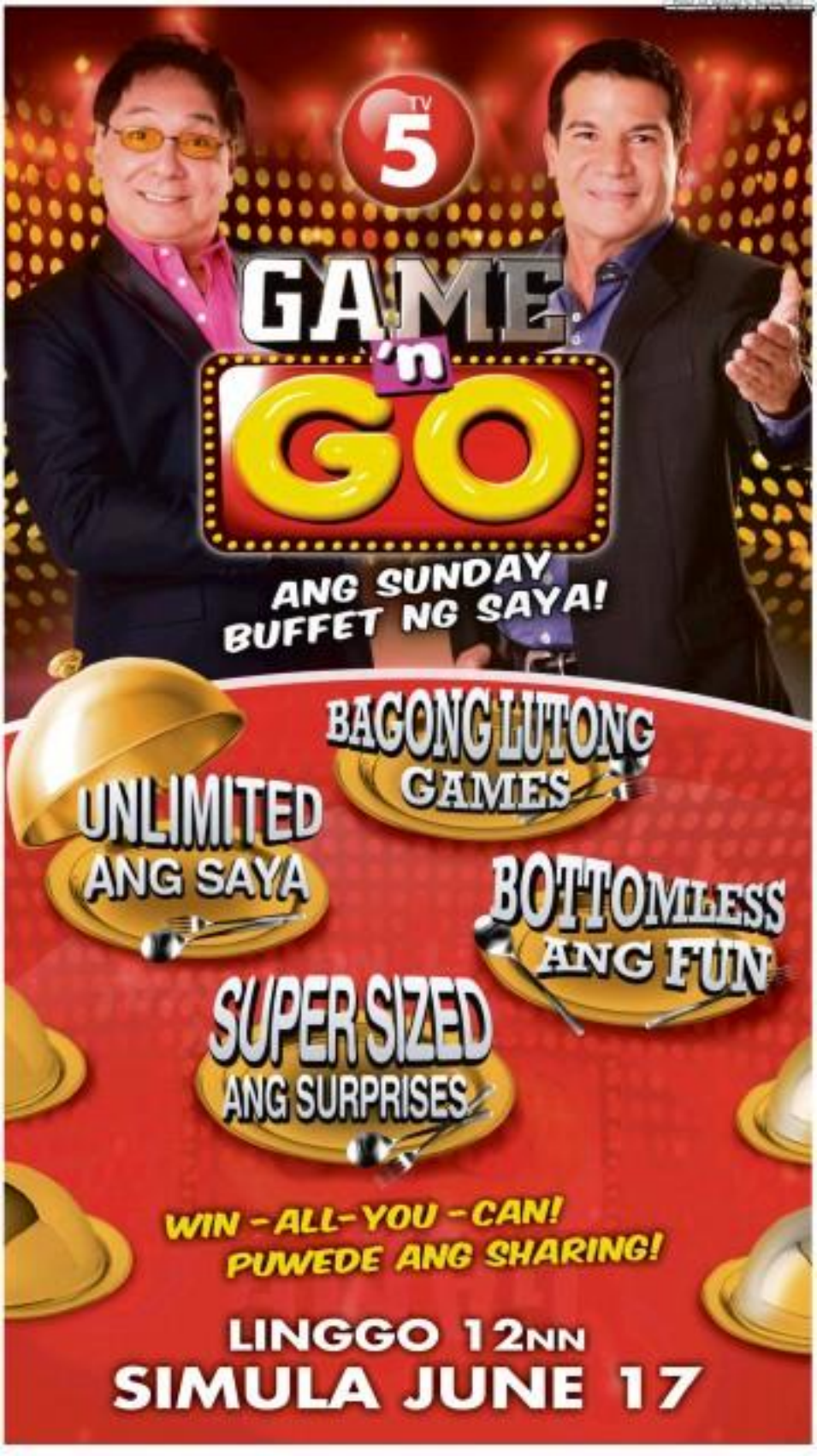
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'Noah' coming to warn of floods

By Kristine L. Alave

FLEETING will soon receive warnings of an impending deluge from a 21st-century digital "Noah."

The government and the private sector are teaming up for Project Noah, a program to install rain gauges and flood monitoring and warning systems in the country's major river systems.

In a speech read for him at the Los Baños International Biodiversity Conference yesterday, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said the PLDT Group's Smart Communications and Sun Cellular will help the government's P17-billion project to make communities more resilient to floods.

Government officials and private sector participants told the summit that the Philippines, which suffers an average 20 storms a year, badly needed to manage river systems and install a better alert system for floods to prevent the loss of lives and property.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, who is spearheading the clean-up of the Iloilo River, said the country loses millions of pesos and suffers unnecessary deaths from floods and overflowing rivers and waterways. A river that is not managed effectively "poses a threat to humanity," he said.

As part of its assistance, the PLDT Group has allowed the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to install meteorological rain gauges (Project Noah) still nine of Smart and Sun all over the country over two years, said Pangilinan. PLDT installed 61 rain gauges for the country's weather bureau last year.

Like the biblical patriarch for which it was named, Project Noah will warn communities of impending flooding in flood communities in the event of continuous rains.

"Project Noah, combined with other new technologies like the Doppler radar, will finally bring the country's disaster preparedness system into the 21st century. Even before floods strike, we can know to an unprecedented level of detail how much rainwater will impact on our cities and towns," Pangilinan said in the speech read for him by Michael Toledo, Philex Mining Corp. vice president for corporate affairs.

Smart and Sun have a total of some 9,000 to 10,000 cell sites nationwide. Apart from rain gauges, Project Noah will also install 400 river sensors and overbanks, which will record water levels, information that is crucial during rainy days. The new sensors, which were to have been installed last November, is open for the country.

Rainy school opening seen

WHILE the wet season hasn't officially kicked in yet, monsoon rains are expected to affect the opening of classes next week.

Monsoon rains is believed to be active but pressure area (LPA) east of Samar could bring more rain.

Forecaster Buddy Javier, including Metro Manila and the Visayas next week, weather forecasters said yesterday.

Southern Luzon, the Visayas and northern and north-eastern Mindanao could also experiencing isolated to widespread rain showers this weekend, said forecaster Elbert Pelayando of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

"We should watch out for these possible monsoon rains. Rest week will be critical. It's likely that we'll be experiencing monsoon rains as well by next week because of the enhancement of the southwest monsoon," Pelayando said in an interview.

As of 5 a.m. yesterday, the LPA was over the Philippine Sea 550 kilometers east of Hernani, Eastern Samar.

While far from the archipelago, the LPA would induce the southwest monsoon, or winds blowing southwest, to bring rain over some sections in early as Friday, Pelayando said.

The LPA would likely develop into a tropical depression tomorrow, and when it does, the monsoon rain would intensify, he said. Once a tropical depression, it will be called "Isang."

"When you have a tropical cyclone east of the Philippines, the monsoon rains become more intense. Even though the LPA is still outside the archipelago, that will be its direct effect," Pelayando said. JJ Burgonio

Bail seen for GMA, Abalos in poll fraud case

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the other former government officials charged with the manipulation allegedly of election results could be released on bail because of the prosecution's failure to offer evidence of a conspiracy, a spokesperson for the Pasay City court handling the case said yesterday.

Judge Jesus Mupas is set to issue a decision on the petitions for bail of Arroyo, former Commission on Elections (Comelec) chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr., and former Maguindanao Election Supervisor Lintang Bedol in late June.

"There is a possibility that the motion for bail will be granted because of all the witnesses the prosecution presented, we could not see what we were looking for," said spokesperson Bella Domingo. She said evidence of the element of conspiracy among the accused.

Domingo said the Comelec, the complainant in the case, had failed to present two key witnesses whose testimony supposedly offers the conspiracy between the accused as allegedly rigging the results of the 2007 elections in Maguindanao.

During a hearing yesterday, Mupas ordered the prosecution to terminate the presentation of evidence and submit the formal offer of evidence in three days after failing to present their final two, and most important, witnesses—Arroyo Maguindanao Administrator Thelma Unas-Ong and Ampatuan Mahogany, former election officer of Parang, Maguindanao.

"The prosecution is directed to rest their case and submit a formal offer of evidence three days from today," Mupas ordered.

PARTY LIST Representatives Teddy Casiño and Rafi Colambo are shown during their reply in the committee hearing of former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano at the Office of the Ombudsman in the cases of perjury and falsification of public documents against the principal figures in the "Hello Garci" scandal.

Comelec lawyer Maria Amor Velasco said the prosecution had lost contact with Mahong, who claimed to have recorded fake election documents that he turned over to Bedol.

"Last night (Wednesday) we agreed that he would testify today and I told him to meet us at the Comelec headquarters in the morning. However, he did not show up. We cannot contact him and we don't know where he is," Velasco said.

She said that the prosecution side could not present Unas, who was supposed to prove that Arroyo had allegedly ordered Ampatuan to manipulate the election results for Maguindanao to produce a 12-0 sweep in favor of Arroyo's Team Unity senatorial candidates, because his security had been compromised.

She later told reporters that there were shoot-to-kill orders for Unas and Mahong, but declined to elaborate.

Mupas also asked Mapun to count the hearing for June 14 when the Comelec would definitely present Unas. But defense lawyers objected saying the prosecution had been given by two many extensions already.

Mupas denied Velasco's motion to postpone the hearings, and ordered the defense to present their evidence on June 21.

"After which, the case will be submitted for resolution," Domingo said, but she clarified that the case, that's why [other lawyers] are desperate to get our witness," she said. Nathaniel B. Mehitsure

P-Noy won't sign waiver on deposits

From page A1

President, who has not been accused of graft, infection and been accused of dishonesty, in the same category as the man who was just removed from his post?"

Valte was answering questions raised by Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano's call for a new standard in his appointment for his vote to convict Corona on Tuesday.

Cayetano submitted a waiver to the Senate impeachment court on May 25—a day late and useless, as he had already admitted keeping $3.4 million and P80 million in bank accounts that he did not report in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

"I ask the President to instruct his Cabinet to sign the waivers, or resign and leave the government," Cayetano said. "Lead by following, or get out of the way."

Cayetano proposed waivers for all executive officials, members of Congress and the judiciary.

WHY ME? President Aquino shows up before the media in Malacañang after the government's chief spokesperson said he did not have to issue a waiver on the secrecy of his bank accounts as Commission on Chief Justice Renato Corona had done and as he had promised during the 2010 election campaign. AP/LEAN ALCALA

Not accused

But Valte insisted that the President was not issuing a waiver.

"You have to remember that this all came about because the issue was on the fund, was being accused of something," Valte said. "Do we put other people in the same situation even when they are not being accused of hiding anything?"

The President said the instruction of his Cabinet have all declared their assets, Valte said. These SALNs have been available to the public since they were sworn into office, she said.

No dollar accounts

Valte added that President Aquino had no foreign-currency bank account.

"We were saying that his declarations in his SALN are incomplete or are inaccurate and the same goes for members of his Cabinet," Valte said. "Just like former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada and [Comelec's] commissioners themselves," she added.

The SALN, Valte said, contains everything that media want the Cabinet to look into the officials' finances with help from all government agencies.

And there's the bank secrecy law, which, Valte said, provides for exceptions and there could trigger the opening of public officials' bank accounts.

'Lead by example'

But Cayetano said President Aquino should "lead by example," though he was willing to give Mr. Aquino time until September that would prevent abuse could be introduced.

In a text message to the reporters yesterday Cayetano acknowledged "concerns" that Mr. Aquino and other government officials might leave if they followed Corona's lead.

Cayetano called for a system that would not see senators officers to resort to resign officials and employees.

"I am in favor of giving him time to sign and put these things in place," Cayetano said.

"So, presidency and programme are worth supporting so I am willing him to find ways to address (the) concerns (but) sign this (no waiver) and put his Cabinet to sign waivers," Cayetano said.

Cayetano was glad about the Supreme Court's decision to restrain the SALN of all its justices.

Lesson in honesty

Speaking at a street forum yesterday Cayetano said Corona's impeachment should serve as a lesson in honesty and transparency in public service.

In the view of the executive branch, he said, the President could order all officials and employees to submit waivers.

"The President can say, 'If you don't want to sign, resign,'" Cayetano said.

Cayetano acknowledged that waivers could be used against public officials, especially with midterm elections to be held next year.

He said the waivers could also be used in prohibiting 'fake' bank accounts to ensure talk cuts of corruption.

But he considered the waiver a "new paradigm" in transparency and accountability and he observed that more public officials are following Corona's example.

Others follow

Several members of the House of Representatives have signed waivers, and the leader of the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai, Mike Velarde, is calling on other government officials to follow suit.

"If they are not hiding anything they should sign," Velarde, the pastor of the SALN is for the public to know what they have," Velarde told reporters during the 6th National Catholic Charismatic Congress in Pasay City yesterday.

"If the SALN is the reason why CJ Corona was convicted, then that is also one of the things that people should look into [in the case of other public officials]," Velarde said. With a report from Jaymee Ann Lang

Ex-CJ won't appeal conviction

From page A1

"He felt that he had to close this chapter of his life. But it didn't mean that he would no longer pursue his (legal) interests," Salvador said.

Prepared to move on

According to Salvador Corona confided with his wife, his son and other members of the family before he made his decision against challenging the Senate's verdict handed down on Tuesday after a four-month trial.

"I think he already had that idea. He just gave the legal team the time to study (the legal options). Beyond, 'It's really for the interest of the country and so that he can already move on,'" Salvador said Corona "looked very calm and relaxed" during their conversation, adding that the former Chief Justice "was not mad at all."

Asked if Corona was preparing for other possible cases that the Aquino administration might file against him, he said, "I think he is aware of that. He's already preparing."

Salvador, Corona's former law partner in the Provincial Order of Ulopia at the Ateneo de Manila University's law school, was among the members of the defense team who opposed the filing of any petition contesting the Senate's verdict.

Senate sole judge

In a previous interview, senior defense lawyer Eduardo delos Angeles said he disagreed with the position of Corona's lead counsel, Serafin Cuevas, who argued that their client could still bring his case to the high tribunal for review.

Delos Angeles, also a Ateneo member, said it would be better for Corona to respect the Senate's ruling "for the good of the country."

Defense lawyers Karen Jimenez, Jesus Manalo and Rico Paolo Quicho also closed the position.

"Tabor (their) are very competent lawyers. I don't see why they should accept the decision," before Angeles said.

As in the high court's authority to review the Senate's decision, Delos Angeles said that under the Constitution, the Senate is the "sole judge" of impeachment proceedings.

"What's vested in the Constitution is 'sole judge.' Obviously, the intention of the Constitution is for [senate should] decide (impeachment cases)," he said.

Delos Angeles, a former dean of the Ateneo Law School, insisted that the defense discussed the possibility of running to the Supreme Court in the early part of the trial.

"Whatever happens, I think we all should stop," he said. "The (government) should just do what we're supposed to do to improve and develop the country. Nothing is happening. We're at a standstill."

"So me," he added, "its practical enough to realize that the impeachment proceedings is also a political act."

Deputy Speaker Lorenzo Tañada III welcomed Corona's decision to accept his conviction. "He may be on different camps on the issue of his impeachment but at least this act would show that he had the country's interest in his mind," he said. With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

Angry Birds spreads wings beyond the gaming world

From page A1

Start up Angry Birds Land, one of the highlights of a theme park opening next month in the Finnish city of Tampere.

"All of our products are doing great," says Ville Heijari, Rovio's SVP for marketing development.

"The movie cakes are sold in the marketing but you can't visit Automobile Island when you're not actually sad."

The Rovio office interior's are exactly what you'd expect from a brash online startup: a central lounge area with couches and oversized Angry Birds cushions. But open-plan kitchen where employees are encouraged to mingle and exchange ideas, walls covered with large-format Angry Birds artwork and a three-story Angry Bird sculpture. TV screens showing development charts, and stack of Angry Birds toys scattered on almost every flat surface.

There's no way employees or visitors—who must sign a nondisclosure form before entering—can forget which birds and the golden eggs that fund the company.

Angry Birds Space

Rovio has twenty-odd in-house employees for the 2009 launch of Angry Birds, which features a cube-full cast of avian characters who can be launched by catapult and smash their way through a series of obstacles created by their Pigeonesian, who have stolen eggs from the Angry Birds nest.

The latest incarnation of the game—Angry Birds Space—was downloaded 50 million times in the first 35 days of release, and currently sits at No. 2 in the iPhone and iPad paid download charts.

Rovio Finns employs more than 300 multinational staff, with offices in the Finnish capital, Shanghai and New York (see Stockholm).

In 2011, some 58 percent of Rovio's $106.3 million (€80 million) revenue came from merchandising sales and licensing deals.

Hero Kapanen, Rovio's director of product development for consumer products, says pitches for new products come from "our fans, of course our employees, including people who are working with us.

Amusement park

Finland has become overwhelming of an early testing center for Angry Birds products, which could be rolled out at least five to 10. The most exciting of these is Angry Birds Land, a 3,000 square meter indoor theme park opening next month in the Finnish city of Tampere.

Other products in the pipeline include Angry Birds Space Lego sets, Angry Birds Space Lego sets, Angry Birds Space Lego sets,

DFA cites hero peacekeepers

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs paid tribute to the country's "fallen heroes"—22 military and police personnel who died in the line of duty as members of United Nations peacekeeping missions worldwide—on Tuesday on the occasion of International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said 22 Filipino military, police and civilian personnel had perished over the years while helping the UN missions, the peace in conflict areas from areas in Cambodia and East Timor to in Iraq in the Sahara and Haiti.

"Today, we remember our 22 fallen heroes, most especially Joseph Chaddo and Charles Ly of the UN missions to Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo, respectively, who were among the 112 men and women peacekeeper who died in the line of duty last year as a result of acts of violence, accidents and disease," Del Rosario said.

The Foreign Secretary said the commemoration was not only about those who died in the line of duty but also those who continued to serve the cause of peace—thousands of others from the 116 UN member nations, including the Philippines.

"We take pride in efforts to the more than 120,000 peacekeepers currently serving in 17 UN mission areas who work selflessly with great courage and under the most difficult of conditions to help bring the foundations for peace and security to conflict areas of the globe," he said.

For its part, the Philippine military yesterday honored more than 600 Filipino peacekeepers deployed around the globe in celebration of International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

In a statement, the Armed Forces of the Philippines praised the peacekeepers for their "unwavering dedication and courage" in serving overseas.

"The 104 Peacekeepers Day marks a very significant event in the AFP year homage to the officials elected by our peacekeepers who continue to propagate peace in foreign lands," said Gen. Jessie Dellosa, the AFP chief of staff.

"Let this remind us of our commitment to the United Nations to propagate peace not only limited to the Philippines but to the rest of the world," Dellosa said.

The AFP said it had 600 personnel deployed in nine UN peacekeeping duties around the world.

These include three contingents in Liberia, Haiti and the Golan Heights, and 20 military observers, staff and other peacekeeping in seven countries.

Since 2005, the military has deployed company-size units of troops, soldiers and equipment in support of the UN missions in Liberia.

In 2004, the Philippines sent out its first peacekeepers in response to a request by the UN for personnel, equipment and services for the stabilization force in Haiti. Joey L. Espinosa and AJ Ilagan

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday - June 1, 2012
Holy Week in Ordinary Time
Ascites

1st Reading: 1P 4:7-13

Be mad of ordinary sense keep your minds calm and sober for prayer. Above all, let your love for one another be intense, for love covers many sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Serve one another with the gift each of you received, thus becoming good managers of the varied grace of God. If you speak, deliver the word of God; if you have a special ministry, let it be one in God's power so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

My dear people, do not be surprised at the testing by fire which is taking place among you as though something strange were happening to you. Instead, you should be glad to share in the sufferings of Christ because, as the day his Glory is revealed, you will also take joy in it.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-11.26

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple. And after he had looked all around, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The next day when they were leaving Bethany he felt hungry in the distance he noticed a fig tree covered with leaves, so he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. Then Jesus said to the fig tree, "May no one ever eat your fruit!" And his disciples heard them say so.

When they reached Jerusalem, Jesus went to the Temple and began to drive away all the people he saw buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the stools of those who sold pigeons. And he would not let anyone carry anything through the Temple area.

Jesus then taught the people, "Does not God say in the Scriptures: 'My house will be called a Prayer of Prayer for all the nations?' But you have turned it into a den of thieves."

The chief priests and the teachers of the Law heard of this, and they tried to find some way to destroy him. They were afraid of him because all the people were captivated by his teaching.

When evening came, Jesus left the city.

Early next morning, as they walked along the road, the disciples saw the fig tree withered to its roots. Peter then said to him, "Master, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered."

And Jesus replied, "Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain: 'Get up and throw yourself into the sea,' and have no doubt in your heart but believe that what you say will happen, it will be done for you. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it shall be done for you. And when you stand praying, forgive whatever you may hold against anyone, so that your heavenly Father may also forgive your sins."

Reflection:

There was a time of dedication of the Temple, which was in fact a rededication to or cleansing of it after its Greek-influenced use. Antiochus Epiphanes (2 Mac 10:1). Jesus was cleansing the Temple in a different way. Expelling the money changers and the sellers of animals, the Gentiles (remember that in Jesus' Day any of his cleansing of the Temple it would indeed between two halves of the court of Gentiles). The significance is this: the big one, which is all nations and not first, the Temple worship is now done more easily. He never said by their hands you shall know them!

PAL pays debt

THE CIVIL aviation authority of the Philippines (CAAP), the country's regulatory body for civil aviation, welcomed the move by flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) to settle its P260-million commercial arrears with the authority, saying that this money would be used to improve and upgrade its infrastructure.

According to CAAP Director General Ramon Gabriel, the settlement by the airline of its arrears for fiscal year 2011 is a big boon to the CAAP as he says its cash position is restrained in its effort to comply with the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and to certify the significant safety concerns (SSC) raised by the Federal Aviation Administration that would mark the ongoing Category 1 status.

Gabriel said added that the payment made by the new PAL management was a product of goodwill and communication to first lay out their cards between CAAP and PAL.

CAAP chief financial officer Dr. Abner Bendo clarified, however, that CAAP continued to accommodate PAL's request for the year 2010 and backwards.

Bendo said consultations between the two airlines were ongoing to discuss the terms of payment which would be beneficial to both the regulator and the regulated. With a lesser

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Vol. 37 No. 179

Grace under pressure

EDITORIAL

FORMER GOV Grace Padaca has been ordered arrested by the Sandiganbayan antigraft court for alleged corruption and malversation of funds in connection with an agricultural development program that was started during her term as governor of Isabela. The filing of the charges and her prosecution are suspicious because they came before the 2013 midterm elections. Having unseated the then long-running governor Faustino Dy Jr. in 2004, which was unthinkable because Dy's political clan had entrenched itself firmly in the North for decades, Padaca and her supporters are expected to again make a dent on the old guard next year. The political establishment in Isabela may again be quaking in its boots.

In 2009 Padaca was ordered to vacate her post after losing the recount of the votes from the 2007 election to Benjamin Dy. She lost in 2010 to Dy, who was reelected along with his running mate, Vice Gov. Rodolfo Albano III. Her electoral losses and her prosecution should show that, despite these setbacks, she remains the biggest threat to the political establishment in Isabela, and that it cannot afford to take any chances.

The complaints against Padaca and other provincial officials were filed in the Office of the Ombudsman by former Isabela Rep. Santiago Respicio, who is allied with the Dys. Padaca is accused of favoring a nongovernment organization, the Economic Development for Western Isabela and Northern Luzon Foundation Inc. (EDWENLUF), in the award of a P25-million priority hybrid rice project. The Office of the Ombudsman said Padaca had illegally awarded the contract to manage the supervised credit and seed distribution facility for farmers as it was done without public bidding or any other legitimate procurement procedure.

Padaca has denied the charge, saying the Dys were behind her persecution. She has explained that the agreement with EDWENLUF was "ratified" by the provincial board and that the release of the funds was cleared by the Department of Budget and Management. Moreover, the program was audited by the Commission on Audit. "The lack of a public bidding was not a reason to conclude that there was injury to the government because the procurement law did not apply to the transaction," she said.

The relevance of the hybrid rice loan program can be gauged by its success. It has helped make 10 Isabela towns the biggest rice producers in Cagayan Valley, said Alicia Mayor Cecilia Claire Reyes, a former provincial board member. The loans released to farmers of the towns of Roxas, Gamu, Naguilian, Burgos, San Mariano, Benito Soliven, Ilagan, Aurora, Quezon and San Manuel have helped increase their rice earnings. By and large, according to government records, the funds have been used to improve rice production in 35 towns.

According to the Kaya Natin! Movement for Good Governance and Ethical Leadership, the criminal case brought against the former Isabela governor is intended by her enemies to keep her out of politics in the province. It "is another case of injustice in our country where the corrupt use all their power and influence to ensure that effective, ethical and empowering leaders are discouraged from practicing good governance and becoming more proactive in helping uplift the lives of every Filipino," Kaya Natin said in a statement.

Among the signatories to the statement are Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, former Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio, presidential adviser Nereus Acosta and lawmakers Jorge Banal, Teddy Baguilat and Kaka Bag-ao. It should be noted that both Robredo and Padaca are recipients of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for governance leadership. Along with Panlilio, they founded Kaya Natin to promote transparency and clean and responsible government.

The political prosecution of Padaca illustrates the powerful resistance of politically entrenched families representing old politics to the popular movement for reform and transparency in government. That resistance was evident from the moment Padaca decided to challenge the political bosses in Isabela. She had to battle electoral protests lodged by the Dys before she could be proclaimed by the Commission on Elections. She may have become the poster girl of new politics when she won in 2004, but she continues to be hobbled by a sustained and well-heeled campaign by an old order characterized by corruption and cronyism. The elevation of the cases against her to the Sandiganbayan and her arrest order are a setback to new politics.

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Keep politicians out of Supreme Court

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE FOREIGN Currency Deposits Act (FCDA) was passed by Congress decades ago, when we had a shortage of foreign exchange and overseas banks, some rich Filipinos were afraid of poor devaluation and therefore kept their savings in dollars. But we had currency controls, so some savings Filipinos deposited their dollars in banks abroad to keep them out of the reach of the Philippine government. Also, foreign investors were staying away from the Philippines because of the same currency controls.

So the FCDA was passed to keep the dollars here and to invite more. The law guaranteed the secrecy of foreign currency deposits in Philippine banks. The banks are prohibited from revealing to anyone the deposits in foreign currency with them. The only exceptions are when the depositor executes a waiver allowing an examination of his bank accounts.

The Code of Conduct for Government Officials and Employees and the law requiring the filing every year by all government officials and employees of their statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), as well as the Unexplained Wealth Law, were enacted by Congress to fight the spreading corruption in the government. Investigators looked into the SALN to find out whether or not the public official or employee enriched himself while employed in the government. If the official cannot explain the source of assets beyond the limits of his legitimate income, these are presumed to be ill-gotten and are forfeited in favor of the government.

Also, because the laws are contradictory (one guarantees the secrecy of foreign currency deposits while the others mandate transparency), the courts are asking one law against the others. As former Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion argued in his dissent in the secrecy-of-bank case, the FCDA, which was passed to encourage foreigners to deposit money in the latter have even brought people into disrepute because they have passed laws overriding earlier ones.

Because of this contradiction, there is now a clamor for all public officials to sign waivers to the secrecy of their foreign currency bank deposits. Those who have nothing to hide have readily signed waivers but those who do will, of course, use the FCDA as an excuse not to. What will happen is that, while the bank deposits of business officials will be open to scrutiny, those of corrupt ones will continue to be hidden. Which defeats the very purpose of the SALN and the Unexplained Wealth laws.

Now then, instead of asking public officials to sign waivers, why not just include the waivers in the 2013 forms? When the official signs his SALN, he also signs the waiver.

If that requires legislation, Congress should waste no time in passing an amendment to the SALN law that will, in effect, repeal the absolute secrecy provision in the FCDA and prevent a repetition of the unfortunate Corona affair.

With the removal of Corona as Chief Justice, there is now a scramble among members of the judiciary, lawyers, and politicians to be appointed as his replacement. *Presidente Aquino has set the correct first step:* the Chief Justice should come from inside the Supreme Court. *Personally,* I think the seniority rule that has been followed for decades should be continued *to avoid infighting and intrigues among the associate justices.*

There is another reform that I propose when it comes to appointing associate justices. *Said appointees should come only from the levels, the academe, and the ranks* of practicing lawyers. Politicians should be excluded. Politicians have a tendency to spoil a basket of good apples.

In recent years, more and more politicians have been appointed to the Supreme Court. There was a time when about a third of the justices were former congressmen, senators and Cabinet members.

The high court must be above suspicion at all times to maintain the people's trust and confidence in the rule of law. How can it be above suspicion when there are ex-politicians among its members? Politicians make a lot of debts during their terms in public office and it is not far-fetched for some of these people to whom the justices owe debts to collect on these favors when a case where they have an interest reaches the high court.

And as the Corona affair has shown, *the case is resolved in favor* of the friend even if the merits of the case favor the other side. That would make Lady Justice cry in shame.

Hopefully, that would not happen too often, but this one rotten apple that contaminates a whole basket of good ones, just one such case will destroy the people's faith in the judiciary. The best thing to do is not to appoint a politician to the high court. Politicians have most of the privileges in the government—pork barrel, allowances of all sorts, power and influence, appointment of relatives and friends to cushy government positions, award of lot contracts to favorite companies, etc. Let's limit their privileges to the Supreme Court.

Besides, the entry of politicians into the high court disillusions the members of the lower courts. The latter dream of every member of the bench is to be appointed justice of the high court. That prompts them to perform better in the lower courts so that they would be promoted to higher courts and, ultimately, to the Supreme Court. That ideal is destroyed when outsiders whose real judges from the high court. They become cynical and just switch themselves, as much as they can in their present positions. No use aspiring for a higher position.

Facebook and the impeachment trial

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

IF SOME I was powered by the photocopy machine and Saks 5 by cell phone texting, the latest impeachment proceeding was fueled by Facebook and live streaming. I was away for most of the past two weeks to deliver lectures abroad, but I tried to keep abreast by watching the trial via the live streaming and following the comments via Facebook. There are plusses and minuses to Internet-based political mobilization.

There is, of course, no substitute for actual conversations with people in the flesh. I now have a deeper appreciation for the crowd scenes on Manila streets, shows like during the famous marches of Imp. Ninoy Pangasinan—but real-time Internet access comes close. It provides the novel experience of simultaneity of people commenting on their Facebook walls and "talking" to one another while watching the same event.

The first plus is that it is raw and candid, unmediated by editors and publishers. It democratizes it all about allowing people to speak their voices, the interactive social networks provide them not just a platform but a megaphone as well. It shortens "the irrelevance of newspapers for public activism," in the words of Prof. Florin Hilbay of the University of the Philippines College of Law. "It's as honest as Lim Legal."

The established press and broadcast networks can be accused of bias and manipulation, of having latent loyalties and hired, gun-for-hire hearts with cold hacks or spin doctors. Not Facebook (or Twitter). The multitude can be manipulated, yes, as I discuss below, but not the old, hallowed way of buying or coercing support.

And there is an added bonus in that the new technology allows people to speak with their and creativity. The image of Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago as "unlimited talk" evil phone advertisement, the revival of Sen. Lito Lapid's old movie ads for Lotis Creatives, and memes on the "Come On, Happy ha" campaign line of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

On top of that, the medium is open to all, classical or uneducated, appointed or unappointed, college graduates as well as dropouts. So *guardian at the gate.* No one telling you, what you can or cannot say. When Holmes spoke of "the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the marketplace of ideas," he couldn't have imagined the digital marketplace.

Finally, the public's verdict is instantaneous. There is no lag time between the public event and public reaction. While Clinton's (the rebel-rousing) speech on impeachment day, I could also read *the immediate judgment* of people listening to those speeches. The instantaneousness itself is one safeguard against manipulation. They spoke before they heard others speak. They all post their messages at virtually the same time, and there is little manipulation to decide who's on first.

On the other hand, the first plus is also the first menace. It is raw and candid, unmediated by editors and publishers. It lends itself easily to the lynch mob, the tendency to gang up on the "flavor of the month," the latest pet peeve and the digitally empowered community. It brings out the worst in some, who give vent to a nastiness that is otherwise edited out by the *silent editors. If number and spontaneity* should bring out the "noble self," in some it merely brings out the "baser self."

Since the commentators merely speak out their minds, they are free to be as openly partisan and one-sided, without any burden to give the other side their procedural day in court. The usual rules of ethics do not apply because they do not purport to provide a platform or pedestal to serve as "Empire mostly speaking our three minds, and are in fact at liberty to take sides. Their goal is openness, to be blind to a choice.

Worse, I suspect some *online identities are* false, created deliberately to simulate the sweep of public opinion. Also I have seen more pointed exchanges in more international groups which succeed in joining the issues better without recourse to name-calling and ad hominem attacks. In a way, this is where technology can help, not cause, the culture, where debates, far from surfacing the nuances of arguments, merely sharpen it and hones it down. The protagonists are either friends or enemies, never partners in seeking truth. It's either-or for issues that admit of grey. Anything in the grey zone is demonized as treacherous.

But the real worry is, in the first place, why a social network should play a role in a trial. As social rituals by their nature are precisely supposed to be insulated from public opinion. Indeed, the importance of a hybrid process, neither purely judicial nor purely political. That should explain why the closing arguments by the prosecution were an appeal to history while those by the defense were heavy on legal technicalities. Each side played to but to different audiences. Each side played to but to different audiences. Each side played to but judges were careful to show that they voted strictly on the question of guilt or innocence, but it cannot be doubted that public opinion weighed heavily when they judged.

Locally and internationally, the impeachment trial has been seen as a sign of our growing "political maturity as a nation." Traditionally, if naturally, issues making our institutions work, then Facebook and the new media should be irrelevant. In one sense then, the impeachment tribunal to halfway between a traditional judicial proceeding and full House-People Power. It was constitutionally designed to carry out the people's verdict through a trial. The trial part of it sought to insure fairness, but the people's part of it sought to insure the democratic will. Someone called it People Power through institutions. It certainly requires maturity to have public of the such stone as well.

Comments to pasalongforreason@gmail.com

Total transparency

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

AFTER HOURS of the protests of Renato Corona in chief justice after the Senate impeachment court found him guilty of betrayal of public trust for failing to disclose all his bank deposits, the Supreme Court ordered its labyrinthine allocations and judges to make public their statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) for 2011 in an apparent effort to repair the damage wrought on the reputation of the judiciary by Corona's months trial.

The order was issued after a special full-court session called by spokesman Jeremy Arandia Gutierrez, who stepped into Corona's shoes in acting chief justice according to the hierarchy of seniority in the concession before. The fact that Corona really called the meeting signaled that even under an interim leadership, the high court was not crippled by the removal of Corona.

President Aquino, who initiated the campaign to remove Corona, and backed it with the enormous police powers and political patronage resources of the executive branch, said on Wednesday that he would not rush the appointment of the new chief justice to avoid the mistake stemming from Corona's "midnight appointment" by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The question of who will be the successor to Corona is important immediately as an issue from legal and political circles, which expressed concern that the appointment of a chief justice pliable to the administration's policies objectives, especially on the issue of the President's election protest, will undermine the judiciary with the order to open its members' SALNs to public scrutiny on the internet of transparency. The July 2 deadline for the submission of a dossier of the judiciary is a political withdrawal in the guise of sending out orange judges and their unconvincingly standing in the way of us.

The Supreme Court's decision to open up the SALNs of all justices and judges came in a response to the public clamor for the disclosure of assets of all officials in the judicial, executive and legislative branches, following the failure of Corona to disclose $2.4 million and more than P80 million in bank deposits. Corona admitted these deposits after he submitted to the impeachment court a certification of the deposits issued by the Foreign Currency Deposits Act (FCDA).

The high court said it was its "collective decision to release the SALNs in full, not just 't ratio' matter." The guidelines for the public release of the SALNs will be taken up in its en banc session on June 13.

The decision to disclose the SALNs is one of the positive outcomes of the trial-story of Corona in the Senate impeachment tribunal last months, although he himself was its most unlikely beneficiary from that rush an appointment would further weaken and undermine the independence of the judiciary relative to the executive and legislative branches of the government.

Even as the issue of the appointment over the money politicos hit town the executive branch, and the high court, Corpio issued the initiative to close up the judiciary with the order to open its members' SALNs to public scrutiny on the internet of transparency. The July 2 deadline for the submission of a dossier of the judiciary is a political withdrawal in the guise of sending out orange judges and their unconvincingly standing in the way of us.

Cancer, smoking and taxes

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SOME 300,000 Filipinos die due to non-communicable diseases (NCD) each year, comprising about 60 percent of the total annual death toll in the country.

Indeed, while the death toll from infectious diseases like tuberculosis and malaria has been falling, there has been a corresponding "surge" in deaths and disabilities due to NCDs, said Dr. Anthony Leachon, a consultant of the Department of Health.

"Deaths and disabilities due to NCDs," remarked Leachon, "while these diseases—heart ailments and strokes, diabetes, cancer, and chronic lung illness—are most often described as 'lifestyle' diseases ascribed to lack of exercise, a bad diet, and habits like smoking and alcohol like smoking. The reality is "80 percent of NCD deaths occur among poor countries in Asia," he said.

Leachon was joined by other health experts and speakers on related matters at the recent "Citizen Consultation on Tobacco Taxation" called to urge an Sin Taxes Plan for Cancer Prevention and Control."

Dr. Cecille Llave, lead convener in the country's for "Driving or Die," which seeks to gather the various sectors involved in the battle against cancer, said that based on the World Cancer Day Declaration, cancer is the leading cause of death around to "reduce the burden of cancer and improve the quality of life of patients with cancer, with a view to reducing cancer deaths by at least 15 percent."

But while the focus was on cancer, the issues raised in the course of the discussion shed light on the related health issues, both the human and economic implications of diseases that are today killing a growing number of individuals.

• • •

ESPECIALLY under the classification of non-communicable diseases, "because they are not traceable to infections or contact with infected individuals—NCDs are "a major global threat to economic development" and have a major impact on the ability of developing countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals, said Dr. Leachon, one of the least Dental Health Surgeon in the office.

Key cited four "major risk factors" that imbibe an individual susceptible to NCDs: Alcohol, physiologic unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and tobacco use.

Tobacco use, in particular, "kills one in every two users," he said, adding that "tobacco kills more than HIV, malaria and tuberculosis combined."

Leachon spoke at length on the pending "sin tax" bill that would rationalize the current tax system, levied on tobacco and liquor products. "We need 300 votes in the House" to have the committee bill passed, he observed, remarking that, with the support of the cigarette and alcohol lobby, the number of legislators rallying their support for the "sin tax" had been growing. This is simply because the "sin tax," while presented as essentially a revenue measure (it is being heard by the House committee on ways and means), is really aimed at "reducing the number of smokers among the young and the poor," two sectors of society most vulnerable to NCDs, Leachon said.

• • •

RECENTLY, the House committee on ways and means approved HB 5727 which increases excise to restructure the excise tax system on tobacco and alcohol products.

What he spoke before the Cancer Institute Asia meeting, Leachon expressed basically support of the thrust of the bill, even if this had already been amended with suggestions from the Department of Finance.

However, Health claims, a congressional representative arguing on smoking initiatives and tobacco control, one there are still many gaps in the legislation, calling to question the impact the proposed measure would have on reducing the number of smokers and drinkers among Filipinos.

Leachon pointed out those with more secondary income and normal, hence Health Secretary Ali more "Quiz" Duterte refer to shed light on the implications of a proposed "sin tax" bill that may be able to raise revenue for the government, but have little impact on the numbers of Filipinos getting sick and dying from NCDs, he said.

"For the bad places, the cheaper cigarettes continue basically to increase government revenues, only secondly to address the growing health problem brought on by tobacco and alcohol," said Rosario.

And in the second place, the bill contains so many loopholes that it may have little, if any, impact on cigarette and alcohol consumption in the long run.

• • •

A DRIFTING document provided by Health further points to the need to align legislation not just with economic needs and ends but also with long-term health goals. In the case of the "sin taxes," this means increasing the long-term impact on tobacco use reduction, including youth smoking, and not simply "raising people starting the habit" against the short-term gains in revenue.

"The advertised increase in taxes from the current law's first and second tier tax rates... to meet the third tier tax rate then incremental from 2013 to the third tier years, would have unfavorable impact on lives saved, but this effect will come in succeeding years," says the document. "Smokers and the youth will be drawn, tied with the smoking price that will have only marginal increases until 2015. After the first few years of implementation, the tobacco companies will begin to rise again but excise taxes will be certain liable for another 4 years or until 2025."

See we just feeling cautious again?

The Hero as Teacher

LOOKING BACK

Andrew E. Gonzalez

PARENTS, teachers, and students are now preparing for the opening of classes: per bahwa, buy books, pens, uniforms; budget the fare. There is mixed use of love, fear, and the beach front school in Daguio. We have from his writings that Rizal was interested in education. If he were not shot under the Luneta he would probably have been a long teacher's life.

Rizal's letters from Dapitan give us an idea of the Hero as Teacher. He letters to his sisters often contained evaluations of the three nephews entrusted to his care. Setumbre Rizal or "Tio," Dominador Rizal as "Tito," and Manuel Rizal as "Nene." He reported on not only their academic progress but also how they interacted with Josephine Bracken, who was then living with him in the house of his sister-in-law.

Rizal made his nephews write to he could correct their grammar, spelling and punctuation. Even the nephews and sisters who were not in Dapitan were supervised. In a letter to his sister Lucia, he wrote: "Tell Delfina that I have received her letter and that I'm not resuming it because it has no attention. There is only one in one left out." He also told Lucia that he will not send her any account on "Tito together to his sisters. He should continue studying so she is getting strong well."

Delfina Herbosa, like her uncle is part of Philippine history because in 1896, she, together with Marcela and Lorenzo Agoncillo, worked on making the first Philippine flag. Rizal's letters to his uncle Tito also teaches practical issues sort of geography and tend to define their natures and failures from their handwriting. "Today I made them write a letter. The writer that Tito, and Teodosio helped him. You will see by the characters that Teodosio is nervous, and that he did not learn the alphabet well in three Spanish, English, arithmetic, and gymnastics."

On March 31, 1896, Rizal sent this report to Maria Rizal regarding her workmates:

"My dear sister: Enclosed is [the letter of] Maria which is just beginning to learn how to write. He is over six years old and he writes how to write a letter. Only he is too lively and playful, always running and not remaining in his seat or at his desk, which is cloudy. He is bright and beats the two of Trio and Tarsia memorizing, but Tarsiano him in arithmetic and English is now reforming from here than all.

"When I made him a long sentence that he must be from his mother that would him a headmistress had so that he would not get so dark. Miss L takes good care of the three. She loves them and it is she they always call. They call her Auntie. Maria writes only a short because he often wets his pants. He is good in Spanish, but it is difficult for him in three months. Tarsiano has not had learned in Manila ... This is all. Miss L greets you. Command your brother."

Lucia Herbosa was also told that her sons were dark from swimming and that they were "getting strong well in their studies. Here they tend you their letters to their mother, and they are learning to write. They write in their notebooks. They write a great deal and Dan can write small 30 hours, though cloudy. Tito drew very well and he is writing like a fish, but he tries quickly. He is going to be Sinopsi. I'm sure I have no room or a heads to teach those how to ride. They already spoon Espanish... Send your children shoes and Bonnet clothes for it is cold. Maria is also very much advanced, but the poor one cannot write yet like his He sends she flannels clothes."

Of the handful of letters Rizal wrote to his nephews and sisters, one stands out. Written on Dec. 20, 1892, and addressed to the 11-year-old nephew of "Teodosio," the letter opened with some encouragement and ended with compassion. "Your letter pleased me very much and I see that you are very much advanced. I congratulate you on it and on your excellent grade... I believe it is my duty to tell your attention to a little matter you have committed in your letter, a mistake that many people commit and that is to say 'I and me' together great you' but Mr brothers and I greet you.' You must always put yourself in the last place, you should say, 'Emilio and I,' 'You and I,' 'My friend and I,' etc. ... As to this rest, you know more and you do not need my counsel. Be always attentive to your studies and with respect to the lessons, comrades, and other people."

Rizal concluded the letter to Teodosio with advice that is relevant to all Filipino students:

"Go ahead then, study, study, and meditate well what you study. Life is a very serious thing and only those with intelligence and hard application can make it pleasant. Be sure to pay great zeal to the among men to its struggle. But this struggle is not a brutal and material struggle with main ideas. It is a struggle with ideas and one's self, with their passions and one's own, with its ties and prejudices. It is an eternal struggle with a smile on the lips and tears in the heart."

The Hero had indeed seen his own better weapon than his intelligence, no other force but his heart. Devotion, perhaps, guided their great mind and love to and educate your heart ... [I have written] enough for the present... I'll send your uncle who leave you. Just Pilar!"

• • •

Comments are welcome in my Facebook fan page.

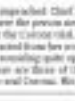
'Palabas'

CENSORED

THE DAY after the Senate impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona, I was at a book where the person next to me began to talk with the teller about the current trial. The teller was clearly reluctant to get distracted from her work, but the man just went on and on, in fact sounding quite optimistic, praising the "Palabas" (There are three of them now) and naming Kap. Tibiran Arroyo and Corona. His point was that

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



This government is doing a great job and cannot be stopped. I was at a loss for words. I didn't want to argue with him, but I also didn't want to leave it there, feeling it would distract people from studies and work, and predicted that public interest would decline. And indeed, as the trial dragged on, people began to get over the shock of hard proceedings and purges.

But that people changed thinking about Corona and Chief Justice Sereno, as well as other perspectives, large based accounts, would spike public interest, but only for a day or two. The tables were important, though, as people became more and more convinced of wrongdoing, of "entitlement," as some of the senators definitely felt it. The finale was the day Corona testified. I described it in an earlier column as a soliloquy, and was being kind to him. It was really a rambling and damaging monologue.

What now is interesting was how people have shifted away not just from the TV coverage but also from the pulsations of the streets. It was mainly supporters of Corona who tried to launch rallies and expressions of support, usually through the use of social media. The rallies with the biggest sites for public opinion were bought in the Internet, in chat rooms, blogs, and crowdsurfing. I was getting at least five-to-six such day from the anti-Corona groups, mainly requests of columns critical of him. As the trial came to a close, I began getting text messages as well, calls to vote and make sure that I was voting for Corona.

The pro-Corona crusade was brave and far between but reflected a strange hodgepodge of stakeholders, even strange bedfellows. Most striking were a motley four-sum family planning Catholic groups, who formed their attacks on President Aquino and tried to paint a picture of a Binibining Corona who was the victim of a vicious witch-hunt. Also jumping into the fray were people claiming they were from the Arroyo-pro-client camp, trying to paint a picture of the Vice President being the last stoke politician able to mediate the four and other national problems.

Nothing more at the levels of discussions, I realized that the 2013 midterm elections were already in the minds of politicos, it was on the area of politicians trying to survey points among voters by producing to public opinion.

The day the verdict was handed down, I got text messages from friends asking if I was watching TV and I'd answer with a curt "no." Other friends who did watch would text comments on the proceedings. I did not want to be a supporter of anyone (not even office or OP) could sense the staff was interested but knew what I felt about concentrating on work. But when someone from another office knew in saying (2 minutes had voted for "guilty," and the staff became quite excited. I knew I'd have to make some concessions. I told them to check the comments by coverage and they did find the location site, which was being updated every minute or so. By the time the magic 10 was reached, there was a slight cheer from the hearing.

Small fry

Corona was escorted only on one count: not disclosing all his assets in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth. Government employees are scared of this "count" and not without reason. For years they have worked on a measly P30,000 government employees filed their SALNs this not that as per-year, years but also complained about how complicated the new forms were.

There remains pointed out, as they gave their guilty verdict, that a count could be a count. Quite many senators voted for Dalisay to declare as her SALN that she had a car-year more. "We should not penalize the poor man for stealing a bicycle, but rule that such man must avoid subsequent bikes he is subjected to a penalty," Sen. Drag. Osmeña III said.

Well said. But I sense people are worried that the government still does not have the resources, or guts, or both, to get to the top fish and the corporations that are behind the smallfry. Like the poor cyclist. Most recently giant charges were filed against former officials from Gloria Palpaca, one of the few high officials with a record of clean governance in a neighborhood case that reeks of political vendetta.

If the government is serious about cracking down on corruption, it should show that it can indeed get to the big crooks, even as it finds ways to protect people, like the court clerk from Davao and Palpaca, from those who would use graft and corruption for business-as harassment and extortion purposes.

Many politicians did score points in this Corona debacle. But I should say that, well, many in the anti-elections, the three senators—Joker Arroyo, Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Miriam Santiago—still lose votes for their "not guilty" verdict on Corona. Life goes on, and the public knows we still have more political spectacles, more palabas.

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On diplomatic immunity

LETTERS

It is become usual, "before recalling [DFA] DOJ for diplomatic escape" (inquirer, 5/16/12). Last May 11, Rizal Kantodai Akiko, a "technical officer" of the Ehimime Academy of Business and attached as a diplomatic agent to the local embassy of Panama, was declared persona non grata under the Philippine government for custody half the country's account by his ambassador. Earlier, he was charged twice in connection with the killing of a Filipino woman, upon issuance of a certification by the Department of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the Department of Justice, that he enjoyed diplomatic immunity.

Under international law, if [a] diplomatic agent who is normally recognized by the foreign office. And the diplomat cannot be made to appear before any person judge—administrative or judicial—for criminal. This is "waiver" as absolute immunity deserving final ruling.Lagman, a former dean of the UP College of Law, heralded the controversial "diplomatic immunity" on thanks for the protections, reminding that it should have observed "functional" rather than "status" immunity.

Pangalangan cited cases wherein "functional" immunity was applied. In the United States, for instance, there were the cases of the head of the International Monetary Fund, who was not required to testify, and a top-ranking official of the embassy of Georgia in Washington, DC, for reckless driving. One case Supreme Court observed "functional" immunity in the case of a Chinese diplomat who made false statements to Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee against the latter in connection with a US affairs under the Military Bases Agreement, for an offense done outside his official duties.

By concur with Pangalangan, Diplomatic immunity should be invoked and recognized when appropriate. Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, it is specifically emphasized that the grant of diplomatic immunities, privileges and facilities are made only "in connection with the performance of official functions." The protection of an individual is not limited from diplomats have a special duty "to respect local laws." Hence, if a diplomat gets involved in a crime while performing his official functions, he is immune. However, this privilege is not absolute, especially in cases of serious crimes, smuggling or examination.

As practiced by nations, if immunity is invoked and wrongly granted, as in the case of Shultz, the receiving state may declare him a waiver of immunity from the sending state. Normally the request is honored. If denied, the receiving state usually declares the diplomat a persona non grata. Should the Philippines just change the rule of thumb to recognize only?

Not all "diplomats" are genuine. Recently, there was the alleged $3.6-billion "diplomat-agent" ready to run for the presidency. How we have a "mysterious diplomat" accused of rape, bribe-spotting governments would hundreds of big diplomats, or just those on the transport for land bound duties, are among the plenty.

—HELIODORO LAÑADA,
retired ambassador,
shorlan12@hotmail.bn

Suggestions for more responsive MRT/LRT service

THE MRT and LRT are not exploiting their full potential in serving the transportation needs of the metropolis, such that jeepneys and buses still clog the streets and the traffic situation has not improved significantly. Why I respectfully suggest the following:

- Acquire more trains to allow more frequent scheduled trips. Instructions: Californian, still, train frequency during peak hours is every 10 minutes so that if one misses a train, the next one is not long in coming. Also, however, peak hours, night and late October and also train schedules.

- MRT/LRT stations should not be in the square so they are now so that passengers walking to get to points between existing stations will not be forced to take a jeepney/bus ride. If this is done, the number of jeepneys and buses can be considerably reduced with attention to the MRT/LRT is faster and will render (and traffic will decrease significantly). This will also ease the MRT/LRT crowding.

- Additional railway systems should be created, using as much as possible surface roads for the rails to these areas not covered by the MRT/LRT system. This will run less to commute, and the businesses along the routes will be promoted from the doing business along MRT/LRT routes). The entire islands of wide roads, such as Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon Avenue, Marcos Highway, C-5 and C-6, and the South Expressway could be used as rail right of way. Note also that elevated railways need elevated stations which are expensive to build and not passengers friendly, especially to the elderly.

- Additional rail lines should be constructed, ideally traversing the metropolis in as most critical areas. Consider creating also the agency of schedules for peak hours and distances between stations.

- Our government does not have to focus the cost of commuting to mass railway transport but only propose those bonds or finance it and then let the Department of Public Works and Highways take charge in build it. The public transfer the interest on the bonds over fixed redemption itself will be paid with revenues generated by the project itself. Ultimately, the government will get to independently own the project and not to produce additional revenues for other projects.

- Thus, the government will for the cost of alternate how much the how to the will have decided to, not to begin operation is to fully

A STRETCH of MRT railway near Santolan

Objectionable, insensitive caption

Ali A Macabo multitudes of the international Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), please allow me to add my voice to that of the country's Muslim community members in condemning the caption of a banner photo (Inquirer, 5/9/12).

The photo shows President Aquino shaking hands with Sen. Senator Benigno "Tito" Sotto during a graduation ceremony. The caption captioned is the first edition, that: "PALACE GIGGLE. President Aquino, Senator Benigno Sotto perform[s] a dance during the conferring of officers in charge of the ARMM Regional Legislative Assembly held in Malacañang on Tuesday. The ceremony was held in a relative of one of the officers."

Because, on the newspaper's second edition, the word dance "PALACE JUDGE" was quickly changed to GIGGLE. This is to all caps, though in question marks and on the same caption font size of the front page.

To say the least, this seems to become insensitive in front of millions of viewers. Worse, the newspaper's second edition, the word dance "PALACE JUDGE" was quickly changed to GIGGLE. This is to all caps, though in question marks and on the same caption font size of the front page.

In the interest of a not be urging parental on by individuals and even by media organizations on FB accounts, the caption simply takes the newspaper's good name off to such situations. Laudable objectivity in preventing stories about evil, gems, including Islam and Muslim culture and religion.

The caption writer should have done a bit research on the subject, refer it the members of a human rights lawyer and a group of which is one of the country's most known officials, as they are also known to such great personalities and entertainers as Senator Loren Legarda, Bishop and Trillion Conference. Mimay s, the mother of lawyer Raul Mimay Jr. Peter to his appointment as assemblyman of the ARMM Regional Legislative Assembly for the first legislative district of Lanao del Sur, Lenyca Mimay served as a senior legal staff of incumbent Senator Lacierpa.

The Mimay family and the country's Muslim community deserve an apology no less.

—HELEN V. ESTEBAN,
OIC, regional prosecutor,
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

The final note by executive secretary, which was published in on May 17 issue. —Ed.

Discounts too for elderly aliens

NETSMELL R. Mellana, in a letter, suggested that a law be passed, giving senior tourists discounts equivalent to those given Filipino senior citizens (Inquirer, 5/19/12).

Indeed, why not give discounts to elderly foreigners who have been residing in the country for a long time—some even for permanent status, contributing to Philippine progress? It's only fair, right?

—DR. TED DIZ CUEVAS,
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Baguio City
dizcuevas@gmail.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Reader's Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. Extension, Pasig City or Fax No. 897-4785, 897-4796, or e-mail feedback@inquirer.com.ph.

All letters/features should not exceed 400 words and must include full name, complete address, telephone number and e-mail address of their author only for verification purposes. The letter will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

School dropout Lito, wiser than well-schooled trio

SEN. LITO LAPID proved himself so be a for some when Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Jinkee Ampon and President "Kangkong" Manny A combined! When, not in the sense of being corruption-free but in being merged deep in common sense.

Former Chief Justice Hilario Davide was kind with his own pained. The dominant resistance he grew in his own mind not to be open to let us him than to be in favors. We see that the presiding officer of the impeachment court exercised this about the folly of what he was doing—to no avail. Thus, when the prosecution felt so many times, we had Lapid and Jinkee basically lifted them up with sarcasm—e.g., his former accounts ($2.1 million) and pres. deposits ($10 million), all unchecked in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth ($18,000)—that can be no longer pressing from me to me.

Just to the statement three who, quite predictably, voted to acquit (some even the pot to

SM City Consolacion, the SM's 43rd mall to be located in Metro Manila, Cavite, Cebu and will be open to the public on June 1, 2012.

Visiting Senator Loren Legarda (second from left) and Consolacion Mayor Darwin Dantes (third from left) are (from left) Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Senator Jinkee Pumaya, Senator Agnes Magpale, Senator Ian Sinocruz, Pampanga Rep. Aurea Calderon, Mayor Lubao Mayor Pablo Lacson, Mayor Sasmuan Mayor Jerry Yap, Consolacion Mayor Darwin Dantes, Boac (Marinduque) Rep. Lord Allan Velasco and Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo during the SM City Consolacion inauguration on a 44,111 square meter site along the National Road in Barangay Poogo, Lanao. The three-level 14,037 square meter mall will serve shoppers in Consolacion as well as nearby in the northern cities of Mandaue and Danao, and the towns of Liloan, Compostela and Carmen.

Don't begrudge Manny for being like most politicians

(YOU'RE angry at Rep. Henry Peñaranda for joining the PDP-Laban of Vice President Jejomar Binay? (Inquirer, 4/16/12)

Suffice it to say, many if not most, of our politicians are in their characters set by certified political turncoats, leapfrogging from one party to another for political convenience and survival.

The Filipino spectator sees in the minds of every Filipino is, whether or not Pacquiao made the right decision. If he did, the local electorate scheduled next year and the press. Pacquiao will not be the only one.

—PEDRO RUPERTO R. JR.,
#727 Taylo St., Sinakan City

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SM CITY CONSOLACION OPENS TODAY

Several twenty years after it opened its first mall in the Queen City of the South, SM Prime Holdings bridge it shopping, leisure, and entertainment destination closer to northern Cebu now that SM City Consolacion is now open.

Located on a 44,111 square meter site along the National Road in Barangay Poogo, Lanao, the three-level 14,037 square meter mall will serve shoppers in Consolacion, as well as nearby the northern cities of Mandaue and Danao, and the towns of Liloan, Compostela, and Carmen.

Consolacion, which is just 12.5 kilometers away from Cebu City, is often called the "suburbs to the north." It is a town of residential urban municipality with a vigorous economy with the presence of several medium sized manufacturing industries.

SM City Consolacion's vibrant, and proportioned exteriors reflect SM's innovative approach to retail. Its combination of crisp colors and materials, a dynamic roofline, curved and curved facade, and carefully proportioned forms, are all destined for a modern sophisticated appearance.

The new mall will be a shopping landmark in the area, with its iconic glass and peeling shoppers from the National Highway. A cultivated façade and brightly colored canopy will further emphasize this. The first commercial entrance by ground floor restaurants opening out to an expansive, landscaped parking area.

Clearly marked entrances will invite shoppers to make their way from curb-to-counter dramatic, soaring interior spaces including an curved glass and an interesting roof. The daylighted plaza will feature a large interactive fountain for a festive flow and will be able to host a variety of events like fashion shows, markets, and performances.

Graceful balconies along all internal spaces will provide shoppers more changing dynamic views, as well as the ability to make a stroll a shopping experience. There include a two stories SM Department Store, an SM Supermarket, SM appliances like the SM Appliance Center Wireless, ACE Hardware, a Cyberzone, a Food Court with at least 6 dining, as well as 140 local, national, and international brands that offer countless products, food concepts, and services.

The new mall also has state-of-the-art facilities with four digital theaters—the first outside Cebu City—with a total seating capacity for 1,088 persons.

SM City Consolacion is also eco-friendly with a variety of strategies like ample daylight, as well as high efficiency lighting systems, and air conditioning, contributing to reducing overall environmental impact.

With open and covered parking areas that can accommodate over 750 vehicles and 150 motorcycles, SM City Consolacion offers convenience the moment you arrive.

SM City Consolacion's project team includes DLSM Associates, Design Architect; Leandro Ling and Associates, Architect of Record; SM ESD, Mall Design Services; architect; ASBEC, Project Manager; and ZCP Construction, General Contractor.

P-Noy told: Don't choose a pol as new Chief Justice

By Cathy Yamsuan and Michael Lim Ubac

A SENATOR yesterday warned Malacañang against choosing a politician as the next Chief Justice. Franklin Drilon, a college graduate who went to qualified to succeed Renato Corona.

The search for a new Chief Justice begins on Monday with the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) setting to discuss the vacancy on the Supreme Court.

The short-term senior justices on the respective Court are candidates for Chief Justice of the Philippines, but Malacañang, according to a presidential press official, is open to considering an outsider.

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano has no problem with that as long as the candidate is not a politician.

"I strongly recommend against choosing politicians," Cayetano told a news forum in the Senate yesterday.

"The problem with politicians is that we are partisan," Cayetano said. "Many people know who we can either and support one, there would already be doubt about a non-Chief Justice's integrity at the very beginning," he said.

Sen. Edgardo Angara believes, however, that Cayetano is "more than qualified" as Chief Justice of the Philippines and can replace Corona on the Supreme Court.

But Cayetano said Angara believes it is legal for President Aquino to look beyond the Supreme Court in choosing a new head of the judiciary.

Cayetano is campaigning for a new mindset of transparency and accountability, an idea he first pitched in explaining his vote to convict Corona at the conclusion of the impeachment Chief Justice's trial in the Senate on Tuesday.

An academician or lawyer

Cayetano said he would rather that Malacañang choose an academician "or a lawyer with 30 to 40 years of practice, one whom we know loves the law and not for benefits."

Convicted by the Senate impeachment court on a 20-3 vote, Corona's removal ordered a void in the Supreme Court's leadership. Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio has taken over as acting Chief Justice. He will serve until Mr. Aquino can appoint a new Chief Justice.

Under the law, Malacañang appoints justices to serve on the Supreme Court, choosing the justices from a list submitted by the JBC, which vets the nominees. The Chief Justice is the chair of the council.

According to Sen. Francis Escudero, however, Congress cannot bind the JBC in deliberations for the choice of nominees for Chief Justice if he will accept nomination for the position.

"Congress will provide over [JBC deliberations]," said Escudero, the Senate's representative on the JBC. "If he becomes a nominee, or if he applies, he will have to inhibit, of course," Escudero said yesterday.

Escudero said the JBC had set a meeting until Monday to approve the publication of the vacancy in the Office of the Chief Justice.

Ninety days

The JBC said it is "giving itself" 90 days to fill the vacancy.

"It would take one and a half months [to complete the process], or approximately by July 15," Escudero said. "So the President will have one and a half months to choose from the list."

But the JBC secretariat expects that a short list of nominees will be on the President's desk as early as before July 15, allowing Mr. Aquino to appoint Corona's replacement before his second State of the Nation Address on July 23.

The JBC is composed of four ex-officio members (Chief Justice, secretary of justice and two members from the Senate and House of Representatives), a private sector representative (sometimes an outsider) and four regular members representing the retired Supreme Court justices, academia, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, and the private sector.

SALN submission

At the meeting on Monday, Escudero will propose to the JBC an important rule set in the JBC in the aftermath of Corona's ouster.

"I will ask for the adoption of another requirement—he applicants to submit their statements of asset, liabilities and net worth (SALN)," Escudero said. "Every applicant coming from the private sector should submit a SALN, he said.

All applicants and nominees should execute a waiver of secrecy of bank deposits in favor of the JBC," he said. "They should submit their unwaiving waivers to [Senate Impeach-ment Court which should be checked against the SALN."

Mr. removed a sitting Chief Justice because of the non-inclusion in his SALN of more than $ 2.4 million in his dollar deposit account.

The JBC is composed of former Philippine Supreme Court justices who have served with honor and distinction.

Escudero said he is looking at former Corona's ouster was impeachable. "I will not support whoever does not execute a waiver," Escudero said. "My position is that persons should be disqualified. At the very least, I will not vote for that person."

He added: "Signing a waiver is logical so that the JBC can check your bank deposits. If you don't want to sign a waiver, then don't run for government. We now have to follow a higher standard we applied on Corona."

Outsiders not banned

Sen. Marietta Elizondy Gurrea, the acting Supreme Court spokesperson, told reporters yesterday that Chief Justice had ordered the convening of the JBC to find a replacement for Corona.

While the appointment of senior members of the Supreme Court had been the tradition in the Philippines in the past, Corona and the Commission does not bar Mr. Aquino from choosing "outsiders" as Chief Justice.

"There's no prohibition on the appointment of outsiders as long as the or they will meet the qualifications and constitutional requirements [set] for the members of the court," Gurrea said.

On Malacañang, deputy presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said Mr. Aquino was open to the idea of appointing a Chief Justice from outside the Supreme Court.

"I think [Mr. Aquino] has already said in the past that he's open to an outsider," Valte said. "He did say it in one of the interviews."

Aside to establishment in 1901, the Supreme Court has only had to be headed by supposedly Chief Justice not a permanent position, according to Gurrea.

"But there had been several [associate] justices who were appointed straight from the private sector and were not members of the judiciary before their appointments," she said.

Other members of the JBC, besides Carpio and Escudero, are retired Associate Justice Regino Hermosisima Jr., the representative of Ola Wilfred, Justice of the Supreme Court; retired Court of Appeals Associate Justice Aurora Santiago Lagman, Sedfa the private sector; former Sen. Maria Ilocos academic, and lawyer Nilda Milagros Pemintel-Gonzales of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

With reports from Norman Bordadora and Marlon Ramos

IN THE KNOW

SECTION 7, Article VIII of the Constitution requires that a Supreme Court justice be a natural-born Filipino, at least 40 years old, and must have been a judge of a lower court or engaged in the practice of law in the country for at least 15 years.

The Constitution also requires that a member of the judiciary "must be a person of proven competence, integrity, probity and independence."

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) has the principal function of recommending appointees to the judiciary, as provided under Section 8, Article VIII, of the Constitution.

The JBC is composed of the Chief Justice as ex officio chairman, the secretary of justice, and a representative of the Congress as ex officio members, a representative of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, a professor of law, as representative of the Supreme Court and a representative of the private sector.

In fulfillment of its function, the JBC submits to the President a list of at least three nominees for every vacancy in the judiciary. From this list, the President makes his choice.

A vacancy on the Supreme Court must be filled within 90 days from its occurrence.

The administrator vows for nominees for judicial offices, including that of Chief Justice, is specific.

The JBC first announces the vacancy, and requires submission of names for candidates to fill the vacancy. Applications and recommendations are submitted to the JBC secretariat.

The applicants are evaluated based on their qualifications and background. They also undergo psychological and psychological examinations.

A notice about the candidates is published by the JBC secretary in two newspapers. The notice invites the public, the bar, complaints against a candidate may be filed with the secretary within 10 days.

The candidates are interviewed face-to-face in an executive session of the JBC.

The candidates are required to submit their written answers to the questions they will be asked during the interview.

Those who pass the initial screening are interviewed by the JBC.

The nominees subsequently meets for the final deliberation to shortlist the candidates to be recommended to the President.

To be considered a nominee, a candidate must obtain the affirmative votes of the majority of the JBC members. On the question of integrity, a candidate is automatically disqualified on the negative vote of one justice-JBC member.

Since appointment by the President, the justice will serve on the Supreme Court, during good behavior, until the mandatory retirement age of 70, or until he or she becomes incapacitated. *Lawyers in Common Inquirer research*

Sources: 1987 Constitution, Judicial and Bar Council

No mercy: Gov't to hound Corona

From page A1

Assistant Ombudsman Asryman Balwan said that the agency would use Corona's waiver on his bank accounts, issued when he appeared in the Senate on Monday to investigate complaints against him.

One of the complainants under the Ombudsman's watch allegedly disproportionate to the income he declared in his SALN.

Just a job

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales yesterday said the investigation was ongoing, but declined to disclose specifics.

In her testimony in the Corona trial, Bachelor waived a report based on the anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) yesterday showing the Chief Justice had $2 bank accounts with $12 million to $12 million in "transactions/balances."

The authenticity of the AMLC paper was not established, but it was repeatedly cited by senator-judges as basis for Corona's conviction.

Corona's camp argued the validity of Monday's supposed evidence. He said he had $2.4 million in bank accounts and did not disclose it because its absolute monetary was protected by the Foreign Currency Deposit Act (FCDA), or Republic Act No. 6426. He said he also simply allowed himself to be used by a vengeful President Aquino.

"I mean going to say what's the new step. All I'm saying is the latest [action] is puzzling," Balwan said, told reporters in an ambush interview yesterday.

"You can file a case if all the documentary evidence can show there is probable cause to indict someone. But if the evidence does not suffice, it is safe for further investigation, then we will do that. Otherwise, if there is no probable cause to indict [the respondents], then we will dismiss the case," she said.

Asked if the guilty verdict against Corona felt like a vindication, Morales said, "That's what my staff thinks, but for me that's just part of my job."

"Whether he was convicted or not, I cheerful. I feel fulfilled. Now, if I was judged wrongly, I'm sorry, so be it," she said.

No effect

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano yesterday said in a media forum that it was normal for prosecution to follow impeachment.

"It is possible that he might be acquitted in civil and criminal cases as usual but it would not change the findings of the impeachment court," Cayetano said.

Cayetano said Corona should have no problem if he would prove in a regular court that his P82.7 million deposit, for instance, indeed represented a "contingent" fund, which is excluded exempt from his family members and money from these Garden Estate projects.

"But if that money could not be explained, or worse, it is found to have been ill-gotten, we have to declare that to convict him," Cayetano said. "That's the law," the senator said.

Cayetano said Corona has his case in the Sandiganbayan, the Anti-graft division of the PCGG, against the DAILYans and other unauthorized provision requiring all government officials to state under oath all assets and liabilities.

"Because of his interpretation ... the SALN became useless," the senator said. "So that did him in. Many of us assumed he couldn't save himself," he said.

Unlike in a regular court of law, Corona was convicted in the impeachment court because of the "moral fiber" that he violated for 6426 supposedly to secure that he did not have to disclose his dollar deposit in his SALN, Cayetano said.

He said Corona's fate after the impeachment trial would depend on the quality of evidence that might be collected against him. That's why Lady Justice is blind. Pity, comparisons, anger—all of these have no place in the justice system."

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

NPA says it rescued minors forced into militia

DAVAO CITY—The New People's Army (NPA) on Wednesday said it rescued six minors who had been forced to join the government militia Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit in Agusan del Sur.

In a statement, the Commission Per...

...ty of the Philippines, which exercises supervision over the NPA, said the minors were rescued during an NPA raid on three military detachments in Agusan del Sur on Wednesday.

The military's Eastern Mindanao Command (Easmincom), however, denied the NPA claim. It said the military never recruited minors to become informers.

Commander Jesus Santiago Nolasco, spokesperson of Easmincom, said the NPA statement was a "blatant lie."

In its statement, the communist movement said one minor was hit in the crossfire during the raid on the military detachments by guerrillas. Nelson said several civilians were injured not in a crossfire, but by guerrilla firing indiscriminately. *Karlos Manlupig, Inquirer Mindanao*

Amid outages, Mindanao power rates up

TAGUM CITY—Consumers in some parts of Mindanao have been told to brace for higher electric bills this month.

The Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative (Danece) said consumers should expect an increase in power charges because the cooperative had to buy more expensive power from private firms due to insufficient supply of electricity coming from cheaper, government-owned plants.

A mere half of Danece's 71 megawatts (MW) power requirement is being provided by the Aboitiz-owned Therma Marine Inc. (TMI) which charges more for electricity than the state-owned Agus-Pulangi hydropower complex, according to Dean Eric Dennis-based chief.

Eric said electricity started to cost more in the aftermath of power outages that began last April.

Nec and Dadeco, which serve at least 150,000 consumers in the entire Compostela Valley province and most of Davao del Norte, needs at least 71 MW of electricity.

He said at least 20 MW of Dane came from TMI, owned by the Aboitiz family that was close to the administration of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Jose Aboitiz-no, President Aquino's energy secretary was former treasurer of Aboitiz and Co., the mother firm of TMI.

11-MW shortfall

Dennis said an additional 40 MW from the Agus-Pulangi complex, said Eric. The government-owned facility, however, fell short of its target supply by 11 MW causing frequent brownouts in Compostela Valley and Davao del Norte.

Dennis pays at least P18.50 per kilowatt hour to TMI and 99 per kilowatt hour to National Power Corp., which operates the Agus-Pulangi facility.

"That's a huge difference," said Eric.

The town of Tandaganan City government employee Emmanuel Saladaw could have financed the continuing misery brought upon by Mindanao's failure to find a quick solution to Mindanao's power shortage other than President Aquino's blunt advice to people to bear higher costs if they wanted stable electric supply.

Saladaw, a government employee, paid P960.00 for his electricity consumption. This, despite the eight to 12 hours of brownouts that plagued Tandaganan City daily that month.

"Out of 720 hours in a month, we didn't have power for 240 hours," Saladaw said.

But instead of paying lower for power in April because of the brownouts, Saladaw's bill even increased to P987.50 that month.

Jacqueline Sue, finance department manager of the Davao Oriental Electric Cooperative, said Dorec had been no power rate increase the past months.

"What was reflected in the electric bills, and we cannot do anything about it, were charges on generation system, transmission system, loses and system loss," Sue said.

The bills, Sue added, did not yet include additional charges brought by the purchase of power from TMI.

Less power, more costs

Consumers in North Cotabato have also been warned of higher electric bills this month.

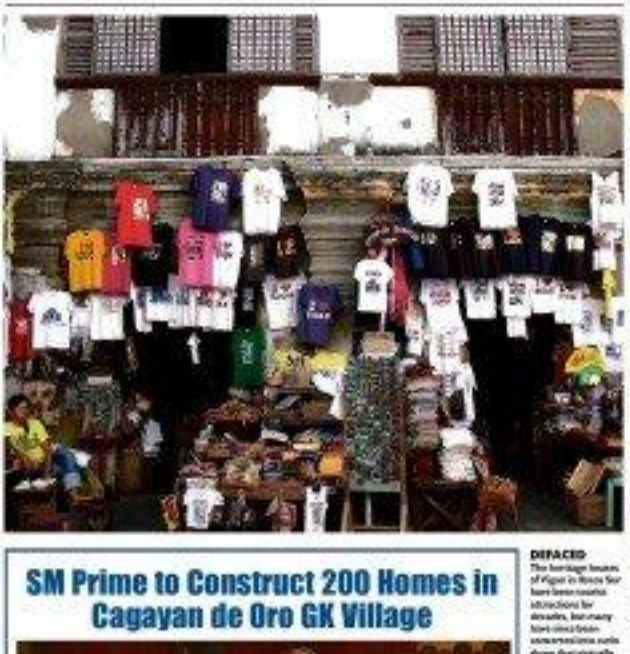
Engineer Godofredo Romeo, general manager of the Cotabato Electric Cooperative, said the increase was imposed as the cooperative was forced to buy power from TMI.

"We are expecting that TMI will send its bill before June 4," said Romeo. "This can be an issue for our cooperative as to how much the increase will be," he said.

Kidapawan City is currently enjoying electricity 24 hours a day but the rest of North Cotabato continues to suffer from brownouts daily sometimes.

In Davao City, power users had surged by 80 centavos per kilowatt hour when the city's lone supplier of electricity—Aguasan del Norte Electric Cooperative—was also forced to buy power from TMI.

Danny dela Rosa, Aseco spokesperson, said the cooperative was forced to buy 12 MW from TMI after Napocor reduced its supply. *Rhiannon Lim, Julie L. Alipala, Carlo Aguinaldo and Frankie Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao*



DISPLACED The heritage houses of vigan in Ilocos Sur have been tourist attractions for decades, but many have since been converted into commercial uses despite their virtually defaced the relics.

SM Prime to Construct 200 Homes in Cagayan de Oro GK Village

Vice President Jojomar Bilcop, SM Prime Holdings, Inc. President Hans Sy, and GK Gift Jose Luis Ongsiaco during the MOA signing. They are flanked with ABOD VP Perlene Montero, SM Supermalls President Steve Tan, ABOD Foundation President Maureen Alvarado, and SM Supermalls Regional Operations Manager Karen Bacani

SM Prime Holdings, Inc. recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the local government of Cagayan de Oro City, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), and Gawad Kalinga to construct 200 homes in Barangay Canitoan, Cagayan de Oro City.

Vice President and HUDCC chairperson Jojomar Bilcop who headed the MOA signing said that besides the coordination and work between SM Prime and government units and agencies, in the ongoing efforts for the rehabilitation of the victims of typhoon Sendong through the development of the 2.7-hectare Canitoan Relocation Site. Other agencies involved are the:

National Housing Authority (NHA), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

As HUDCC Chairperson, Vice President Jojomar Bilcop tasked the NHA to implement the development of the Canitoan Relocation site that will accommodate families displaced by the typhoon Sendong, and others resettled in other areas of Cagayan de Oro City.

The Canitoan Relocation site will be composed of 200 homes donated by SM Prime, as well as 100 homes donated by ABOD Foundation – a total of 300 homes to be constructed by Gawad Kalinga who will also organize a community association, which will serve to empower the families and the whole community towards self-reliance and sustainability.

The local government of Cagayan de Oro City, meanwhile will also provide additional housing units as well as community facilities such as multi-purpose covered court, material recovery facility, transport terminal, social hall-station, school, health/dry market, day care and health centers. The DSWD will be leading the social preparations and community organizing; the DPWH will be assisting in the construction of roads/alleys, drainage works and rainwater impounding area; and the DENR shall take over the issuance of permits/environmental clearances.

SM Prime Holdings President Hans T. Sy, Atty. Gen. Manager Elvin Cruz, HUDCC Secretary General Cayetano Aldaba, Social Welfare & Development Secretary Corazon Soliman, Public Works & Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson, Chairman of Housing Committee for Sendong Victims Msgr. Jerry Cruz, V.G. and Gawad Kalinga Executive Director Josel Luis Ongsiaco formalized the partnership by signing the MOA at the Coconut Palace in Pasay City. SM Supermalls President Annie Garcia, Regional Operations Manager Karen Bacani and Debby Ong, and Gawad Kalinga Partnerships Manager Tito Caguia joined them in the event.

The construction of homes for Sendong typhoon victims in Cagayan de Oro is one of SM Prime's many projects to improve the lives in the communities it serves.

NEWSBRIEFS

QUEZON

Rob gang suspect slain

A SUSPECTED robbery gang leader and rapist was shredded by police in Pagbilao, Quezon, on Wednesday afternoon, a police official said yesterday.

Supt. Allan Rae Figueroa Dy, head of the Quezon Provincial Public Safety Company (QPPSC), identified the suspect as Gary de Sena, 33, alleged leader of a robbery gang operating in Quezon.

De Guzman was also the main suspect in the rape of a teacher at the Quezon National Agricultural School in November last year. De said in a text message.

He said De Guzman did not resisted arrest while cornered by policemen in Barangay Ibabang Dupay past 1 p.m. De Guzman's group was believed responsible for a series of robberies in Quezon. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Lightning strikes again, kills 2

TWO fisherman were killed and seven others were injured when lightning struck their fishing boat in the Pacific Ocean off northern Quezon's waters on Monday, police said.

Senior Supt. Ysmael Yaro, the Quezon police chief, said fishermen Ronnel Robledo and Ryan Manzanares died on the spot when lightning struck their boat at around 7 a.m. as they were fishing in waters off Dingalan town.

De Leon said the fishing boat had nine crew members.

He said fishermen in the vicinity rushed to the casualty injured airmen, Bernie dela Salden, to the Dona M. Recto hospital in Infanta town.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

PAMPANGA

Appeal for help for girl

A TWO-YEAR-OLD girl in this town has been suffering from a huge lump in her brain, and her parents are appealing to Good Samaritans for help to allow the girl to undergo surgery.

Dario Urbino, an official of Barangay Palacpalac here, said the lump on the head of his daughter, Princess, has developed into a growth that is now as big as her head. The growth could affect her eyesight, he said.

Doctors at the Region I Medical Center in Dagupan City said Princess is suffering from cerebrovascular malformation, a congenital malformation.

If would not need to undergo surgery to remove the tissues and restore the girl's facial structure, the doctors said, but the Urbinos said they could not afford the cost of surgeries.

Princess is the fourth child of Urbino and his wife Juliet, a manicurist and the main breadwinner of the family. Juliet said she earns P4,000 a month. Dario said he had been unemployed for a year on call for Princess who overthrowly-set some of the symptoms of her condition, Urbino said.

He asked those to take care of Princess when Juliet is at work. Anyone interested to help the Urbinos may contact Yolanda Gonzales at 09209066857. *Yolanda Gonzales Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Arrest of ex-cop chief sought for rape, abuse of women cops

IRIGA CITY—A division of the antigold court Sandiganbayan has ordered the arrest of the former police chief of Iriga City here, who had gone into hiding after he was charged with rape and sexual harassment by four policewomen and the wives of two police officers.

The provincial police office of Camarines del Sur received a copy of the arrest warrant against former Supt. Ernesto Encarnacion last Tuesday. It was signed by Associate Justice Efren de la Cruz, chair of the Sandiganbayan's first division, last Feb. 13.

Encarnacion, a native of Bicol, was charged with rape and sexual abuse that he allegedly committed during his stint as Camarines del Sur police chief from 2008 to 2009.

Encarnacion had gone into hiding after he was charged with similar case of sexual abuse and misconduct in a municipal trial court here.

Supt. Hubero Abella, provincial deputy police director for administration, said Encarnacion is another to be listed in the numerous wives of policemen in connection with another sexual abuse case filed against him by six women, four of whom are police officers.

One of the alleged victims was a 28-year-old policewoman who claimed that Encarnacion molested her inside the provincial police chief's quarters on March 2, 2009.

Another alleged victim, wife of a police officer, said Encarnacion also sexually abused her inside the same quarters. She said she discovered the ordeal of the other victims when she reported the abuse to her spouse, co's and children's death of the city police. *Orlando B. Dacay, Inquirer Bicolnews*

Pleasant surprise in 'Project Shoe box'

By Dolly T. Mallari Jr
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Soldiers and a security-themed "Project Shoe box" in February hoping to collect 1,000 shoe boxes and fill them with school supplies for children in some of the poorest parts of Southern Luzon.

To their surprise, the number of shoe boxes and school supplies exceeded their expectation and an army official attributed the interest that the project drew from donors to a previous success story about it.

Soon after the Inquirer Southern Luzon ran the story on March 8, the Army's Camp Camp Guillermo Nakar have started to be flooded with shoe boxes and school supplies.

Lt. Col. Herman Sedano Jr., head of 4th Light Armor Battalion (LAB) based in Camp Nakar, said the latest inventory showed there are now enough school supplies for 15,000 elementary pupils.

"The happiest story gave tears mounting to the project. We were already happy if we could reach our target of 1,000 boxes but your story changed it all," said Sedano.

He said after the Inquirer story came out, donors like the National Bookstore Foundation and SM Foundation responded quickly, donating at least 13,000 packs of school supplies. Donations also came from civic and religious groups.

The Philippine Red Cross Express offered to ship the donations for free to beneficiaries.

Sedano said the 4th LAB, stationed at least 2,000 shoe boxes while 2GD Express, which also donated boxes weighing a trillion ants to troop back to school in June.

Lutero said the only problem that Dep Ed anticipates are the lack of planning and the uneven distribution of students in the elementary and high schools.

He appealed to parents to avoid congested public schools and seek other schools near their neighborhoods instead.

"They should not think of schools in the urban centers only. They should consider schools in rural areas (and outside these) as also the best schools for their children," he said.

Lutero's visit formed part of his 10-day schools caravan.

He said a model school he earlier in the morning at the Mabini Central School have built at a cost of P10 million by the city government. Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon said in a report by Carlo B. Cueno, Inquirer Visayas

ARMY SOLDIERS and volunteers help collect shoe boxes and fill them with school supplies for poor children. SEDANO SEDANO, PHILIPPINE ARMY

More years in school seen chance for dropouts

SORSOGON CITY—Mother—Increasing the number of years children spend in school could also help cut out school youths living in high school, Education Secretary Armin Luistro said here.

Luistro said here that he is for the K-12 program, which increases the number of years children spend for elementary and high school to 12, as a tool to allow dropouts to finish high school in a year or two.

He said his department is also confident the number of teachers required for K-12 would be sufficient.

Part of the agenda of K-12, he said, is to fulfill dropouts' high school aspirations.

"It is sure for us to make programs that can be tailored for the dropouts," said Luistro during the inauguration of the city's free online education building.

He said a program called Alternative Learning System (ALS) has been designed to allow dropouts, no matter how old they are, to complete high school.

The program, said Luistro, is designed with "so much flexibil-

4 dead, 7 injured as SUV slams into bus in Quezon

LUCENA, CITY—Four persons were killed and seven others were injured when a sports utility vehicle (SUV) collided head-on with a bus along the Quirino Highway in Tagkawayan, Quezon, on Wednesday, police said.

The bus number 139-9211 (just 10 p.m., according to Quezon police chief Senior Supt. Ildefonso de Leon, quoting a report from the Tagkawayan police.

The four SUV passengers died on the spot, he said.

De Leon identified the deceased as Ariel Espal, 37; Antonio Espal, 22; Harold Espal, 15; all residents of Barangay Bunag Bunag Gibayan, Laguna; and a woman who was still unidentified.

Seven bus passengers suffered injuries and were rushed to the Tagkawayan district hospital for emergency treatment, said De Leon.

They were identified as Lucita Perez, 59; Elenan Jay Salvacion, 21; Ana Salalvera, 42; Kathleen Cara Aguirre, 22; Kim Carl Orozco, 5; Thee Marie Amante, 45; and Victoria Sarcoza, 55.

The four drivers, Nestor Mabuti, is now in the custody of the Tagkawayan police. *Dolly T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

INVITATION TO BID

SUBSURFACE GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION FOR THE DETAILED ENGINEERING STUDY OF TUMAUINI MULTIPURPOSE IRRIGATION PROJECT

Sealed bids by prospective bidders for the above Project, having been prequalified pursuant to DPWH Department Order No. 174, series of 2004 and subject to the provisions of the 2010 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, are invited for the following:

Name of Project	Location	Approved Budget for the Contract	Work Category	Contract Duration	Amount of Bid Security
Subsurface Geological Investigation for the Detailed Engineering Study of Tumauini Multipurpose Irrigation Project	Tumauini, Isabela and Sta. Maria, Ilagan, Isabela	[illegible]	Complex	90 CD	P [illegible]

Prospective bidders should have the following minimum eligibility requirements:

1. Registration and Membership in the PhilGEPS Registry
2. Valid Mayor's/Business Permit
3. Tax Clearance
4. Audited Financial Statements
5. Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC)
6. Experience and Technical Capability

Bidding documents are available to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount in the Cashier.

The bid documents may be purchased by interested bidders for the amount of [illegible] and will be available for sale to prospective bidders from [illegible] to [illegible]. Bids must be duly accompanied by a bid security in any of the forms and in the amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on [illegible]. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without incurring any liability, and to waive any defect in the bids in the interest of the government.

For further information, please refer to:

Engr. [illegible]
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

Approved By:

Engr. [illegible]
Director

Date: [illegible]

For further information, please refer to:

Engr. [illegible]
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

Engr. [illegible]
Director

Date: [illegible]

Pagunsan fires 71, trails by 7

SAITAMA, Japan—Juvic Pagunsan, the reigning Asian Tour Order of Merit champion, fired a 7-under-par 71 to trail leader Masanori Kobayashi of Japan by seven shots at the start of the Japan Golf Tour Championship Citibank Cup Shishido Hills 2012 Thursday. The Filipino ace, who has yet to finish in the top 40 in five tournaments in the Japan Tour, had eleven of 13-36 at the west course of the Shishido Hills Country Club.

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoa

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Tigers field new import today

By Mycong R. Cuerillo

POWERADE, now the only winless team in the PBA Governors' Cup field, precedes European league veteran Omar Strood against Alaska today in a bid to arrest its skid and stay in the running for a playoff berth in the season-ending tournament.

Strood, a 34-year-old journeyman who has seen extensive action in Belgium, Venezuela and the Netherlands, replaces the celebrated, but disappointing, Rashad McCants when the Tigers clash with the Aces in the 5:15 p.m. contest set at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

McCants averaged 23 points in his two games with the Tigers, but the talent and skill that took him to stints with Minnesota and Sacramento in the NBA have clearly deserted him, forcing Powerade officials to look for a replacement.

Reigning Commissioner's Cup champion B-Meg handed the all-in-their-17th-year game with the Llamados nothing a second straight win and the Energy hoping to avoid a second consecutive defeat.

B-Meg shook off championship hangover right in their second game by trouncing hitherto team Barangay Ginebra, 96-88, last week, and the Llamados are looking sharp once again.

"We got back to our comfort zone in this game," said B-Meg coach Tim Cone, who could tie the legendary Baby Dalupan with the most career titles won in the league with another championship here.

Cone said the reason why the Llamados are playing well is the rejuvenation of Yancy de Ocampo, the 6-foot-9 shooting big man whom Cone has placed a lot of scoring responsibilities on.

De Ocampo is averaging 16.3 points in three first-nine outings and is providing all sorts of match-up problems with his height, and ability—and willingness—to play outside-and-take jumpers.

"(Yancy is averaging) 16.5 points and that is great in an import conference," Cone added. "He has definitely picked up the slack for (Peter Fingha) and Joe (De Venecia)."

Willie Miller and Yancy Seigle will be the prime local options for the Energy, who are expected to again draw strength from young import Justice Bracknen.

UST rips SSC, seals V-League finals slot

NAT'L GAMES
Past, future PH stars grab limelight

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas did away with the suspense that marked the first two games of the series and forged a methodical straight-set victory over San Sebastian, 25-12, 25-15, 25-23, to claim the last championship berth in the Season 88 Women's Volleyball tournament today at the Filoil Flying V Arena.

That import Ramirez Undiano had 14 kills in a 15-point outing, while Judy Caballejo dropped 14 to lead the Tigresses in the semifinals duel, winner-take-all Game 3.

"We just wanted to be intense all throughout the game," said UST coach Odjie Branzuela. "We no longer wanted to extend the match in another best-of-three."

The Tigresses will take on Ateneo, the unbeaten top-seed, in the best-of-three championship series starting in Game 1 this Sunday.

"This was our goal from the start," said Manzano as UST bids for a seventh championship after a two-year hiatus from the league.

The Tigresses also held San Sebastian's Jorg Bambo to 10 markers in just two sets days after the setter was **thrust into the spotlight** for a league record of 60 points.

"We got dominated," San Sebastian coach Clint Malazo admitted. "We worked on our blocking and receiving, but they were too much for us."

The Lady Stags, though, had threatened to extend the match by tying the score at 23-23 in the third frame, before the Tigresses snapped it up with back-to-back spikes from Undersen and Elaika Ortiz.

Ortiz added nine markers, while former MVP Mary Ann Bales, Rhizza Buenaventa and Rhea Dimaculangan also came through in the "**B-game**" semifinals performance.

Defending champion Ateneo claimed the first title berth last Tuesday following a 3-0 semifinal sweep of Perpetual Help.

UST took a 1-0 start in the series before San Sebastian forced the decider in Game 2. With reports from Randolph Jayoguer and Rudolfo Lomotit

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ILIMANGUEST CITY—The past and future stars of Philippine sports grabbed the limelight in their favorite events yesterday in the PSC-PSC National Games here.

Nine-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist **John Rapiles** and **Olympian** archer and horseman Jessie Arquero Dan Rashad made statements in posting impressive Double Gold performances in the 10-meter freestyle and 200m individual medley to add to his earlier victories in the 100m freestyle, 400m free and 1,500m free.

Now 47, Rapiles, competing for Cambanga, needed less than 10 seconds to depose of CJ Isa Pedro of La Salle and grab the gold medal in the 50m freestyle competition at the Negros Occidental State University.

He has won 10 SEAG gold from 1979 to 2000 but failed to clinch a medal in the 1998 Bangkok Games when he fell in the quarterfinals.

"This is my way of helping the sports. Although I'm retired as a player, I play with the young ones to teach them," said Rapiles.

Clara, 45, also defied the years by topping the seniors' **compound open qualification round with 698 points** at the City High School in the Games organized by the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission, and sponsored by **Smart Communications**, Gatorade Mineral Water, Standard Insurance, TVS, ABTC, Sky Ranch Corp., Cebu Pacific, Accel, Home Instruction, Scotch 'n' Go for Gold, 100 Plus events and Puregold Price Club.

She beat National Capital Region's Amaya Pat Gaiongon (682) and another Olympian, Jean Sibayan (653). Chan, who has gold came in the 2009 SEA Games, hails from the city along with the sports's other notables like Sibayan and Mark Jones.

Delfin Adriano of NCR signed supreme in men's **compound open** Olympic round with 344 points beating teammate Earl Benjamin Yap by just one point. Carlos Scottish Jimenez was third with 342.

In track and field, Antoni Gelaver of Tangub stunned a win when he salvaged a silver medal in decathlon despite using a bamboo stick in his pole vault event. Gelaver and his teammates signed a modern re-departure with the usual Olympian pole in favor of bamboo.

Friendly: PH Azkals battle Malaysians

By Cedrill P. Tupas

MELAKA—There was a time when an absence of several key players could easily spell defeat for the Philippine Azkals' bid.

But with sweetened depth in their ranks, the Azkals won't worry about missing key figures when they tangle with reigning Suzuki Cup champion Malaysia in an international friendly Friday at the Hang Jebat Stadium here.

Phil and Jarmo Matthew Hasselhaan, goalkeeper Neil Etheridge and co-skipper Aly Borromeo are among the **no-inside absentees**.

But midfield dynamo Stephen Schrock will make his return after an 11-month absence from the national side, feeling more confident of his ability after a stellar season in the German second division, where he helped his side win the title and a promotion to the Bundesliga.

Also expected to start for the Azkals are Southeast Asian Games campaigners Roland Muller, Carlo de Monga and Manny Ott as well as veterans Rob Gier, Jason Sabio, Juan Guirado, Angel Guirado, Dean Wolf and Neil Meadows. A 31 Chiefly Caligdong will skipper the side.

The friendly match gives the Azkals an opportunity to chalk up crucial points that will **boost their FIFA Pts.** 140 positions and gauge the strength of the opposition for their next major tournament, the Suzuki Cup Asean Football Championships—the same tournament that compelled the team to national consciousness two years ago.

"It's important to show what we are capable of before the Suzuki Cup and also for us to learn about the level we should expect in that tournament," said Azkals manager Emi Palami.

SCHROCK

Cebuana, NLEX down semis foes

By Jasmine W. Payo

CLIFF Hodge and Calvin Abueva provided the fourth-quarter boost NLEX needy needed to thwart Blackwater Knights, 86-77, and Air21 Express 3 of the 2012 D-League Foundation Cup semifinals yesterday at the Ynares Sports Arena.

Hodge dropped 10 of his game-high 22 points in the final quarter and Abueva also six of his 13 in the same period to help the Road Warriors reign ahead in the game.

Cebuana Lhuillier also overcame a poor start to hack out a 79-66 triumph over Big Chill and secure a 1-0 lead in the other best-of-three semifinal series.

Chris Exciminiano fired 16 points, while RHP Vic Manuel and reserve James Mangin had nine had 10 each for the Gems. With co-

Powered by Boost, Gatorade, Mineral Water, Standard Insurance, TVS, ABTC, Sky Ranch Corp., Cebu Pacific, Accel, Home Instruction, Scotch 'n' Go for Gold, 100 Plus events and Puregold Price Club.

North golfers still up going into singles

By Mycong R. Cuerillo

THE NORTH pulled out two crucial victories in foursballs yesterday morning and padded its lead over the hosted South side to 11-4 before a seeing doorsprize halted play in the Ryder Cup style "The Duel" at posh Alabang Golf Club.

Benjo Magsalin and Randy Garaldo prevailed 1 up in the 1 o'clock tee-off time Hilmer Hernandez and Marvin Dumandan in the last ball format before Miguel Tabuena and Carl Santos-Domingo scored their second victory.

Magsalin and Garaldo birdied three holes in a four-hole span from No. 13 when Magsalin chipped in from the fringe, finally ending the match when Garaldo sunk one from give-and-take distance.

Tabuena-Domingo posted a 2-up decision over Mark Fernando and Rodito Bayron with the South's only victory for the day coming courtesy of the Jay Bayron-Fredit Aseron tandem that turned the tables on Angelo Quimbo-Paeng Lim.

Former Philippine Open champion Gerald Rosales and Jeremiah Bunin were able to salvage a draw with the talented pair of Antonio Lascuña and Cardoz Cuna.

"I said complain 'Mivee doing fine'," Harris skipper Cookie Lat'l said, "As long as the guys play as one unit, we'll be OK."

Pacquiao feels like he's 25 again

By Ray Loreco

HOLLYWOOD—The glint on his face, the spring in his legs, and the sting of his punches are back—tell-tale signs that Manny Pacquiao is feeling young once again.

"I'm still thinking I'm 25, 26 years old," declared a smiling Pacquiao, who's actually 33, before showing off smiles at the Wild Card Gym here Wednesday afternoon (Thursday in Manila) as coach Freddie Roach.

Kenneth Deguzman's relay appearance, however, is a fighter determined to win back doubters unimpressed with his three majority-decision win over Juan Manuel Marquez last November.

"It (an impressive victory) is really important because, of course, everybody knows my last fight was very close," said Pacquiao, who already circled the ring to greet spectators in Filipino, English and Spanish.

"With God's grace and strength I will win the fight (against Timothy Bradley on June 9)," said Pacquiao, who refused to predict a knockout. "It's God's will (if it comes)."

Roach, however believes a knockout is looming when Pacquiao defends his WBO welterweight crown against Bradley.

"Somewhere along the way the knockout will come," said Roach, who installed Bradley's predecessor at 147 as his other client.

"He's never been a puncher and he'll never be one," Roach said. "Punchers are born not made."

"He (Bradley) is no slow and Manny is so fast, it's going to be like night and day," added Roach.

Top Rank promoter Bob Arum also said that the ticket sales for the bout are "really selling" and are "going through the roof."

The HBO pay-per-view attraction, already in hosting's Hall of Fame, sold out of 14,500 tickets only 1,500 are left.

NIETES

Nietes vows to keep WBO belt vs Salguero tomorrow

By Jasmine W. Payo

CONFIDENT of his improved form, Donnie Nietes sees a successful defense of his World Boxing Organization (WBO) light flyweight championship against Mexican Pedro Salguero in the main event of Fiesta Pride XIII Night of Champions tomorrow night.

"I wasn't happy with my last fight, but I've made a lot of changes," Nietes said in Filipino during a press conference yesterday at the Bamboo Deck Hotel in Manila.

Two other undefeated ALA Boxing Gym stars clash with foreign fighters on the same night as the Sinsuyoc Performing Arts Theater in Pasay's World, Manila.

Milan Melindo (26-wins, 10-KOs) battles Colombian Jesus Cotto (33-2-1, 1 KOs) for the WBO international flyweight championship, while Genesis Servania (17, 1-KOs) takes on Mexican Cesario Garcia (28-6, 22-KOs) for the WBC international silver super bantamweight championship.

"Donnie is one of the best undefeated champions," ALA Boxing Promotions president Michael Aldeguer said of Nietes (29-1-3, 15 KOs). "People have to realize that he's the longest reigning champion we have now."

A confident Salguero (31-2-1, 13 KOs), however, thinks he can go for a knockout.

Heat seize 2-0 lead

MIAMI—LeBron James scored 34 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as the Miami Heat pulled off the biggest playoff comeback in the club's history to beat the Boston Celtics 115-111 in overtime on Wednesday night.

Dwyane Wade scored 23 points and Chris Bosh scored 22 for the Heat, who took a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals despite an unbelievable night by Rajon Rondo. The Celtics guard played all 53 minutes and scored 44 points, dished out 10 assists and grabbed eight rebounds.

"The group had resolve," Wade said of the Celtics. "They came out and played a great game. It was physical-wise. They brought the game to us. That's how it happen. We said we can't quit and the onus got to get back on the game and we had to play better."

Paul Pierce scored 21 points, Kevin Garnett added 16 and Ray Allen 13 for Boston.

Rondo finished 16 of 29 from the floor, 10 of 12 from the free throw line and made both his 3-point tries.

"He was absolutely phenomenal," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "Did we put the whole team on him on his shoulders. We had a lot of opportunities to win the game."

Allen's 3-pointer with 34.3 seconds left tied the game at 99-all. James raised two shots, first a layup—he got the rebound of his own miss—and then a jumper as the final possession of regulation ended overtime they went.

"We tried to do it the tough way," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Game 3 is Friday in Boston.

The Heat had come back to win from 14 points down in playoff games twice before. Back in Game 6 of the 2006 NBA Finals—their title-clincher—and again last season against Philadelphia.

And if the one-win-clinching story, since then, once James raised his free throws 21 seconds into overtime, and Miami looked in trouble. But the Heat held on, as it usually seems they will. 47 free throws—24 by James—to Boston's 29.

The winning shooter in overtime began like this: Rondo scored. Heat tied it. Rondo scored. Heat tied it. Rondo scored. Heat tied it.

When Rondo muffed a layup—he thought he was fouled, and the Celtics agreed—with 1:34 left, Miami took advantage, with Udonis Haslem getting a dash to put the Heat up 105-103. And after a takeover on the next Boston possession, Haslem drove the lane, hit the deck and crashed to his lungs boarded on the last and dropped through.

Garnett stood over Wade and glared at no one. Wade hit the free throws and Miami won up 110-105 with 20.7 second left. AP

HEAT'S Dwyane Wade (middle) tries to score as reserves against Boston's Paul Pierce (center left) Rajon Rondo (9) and Kevin Garnett. →

Federer sets new Majors record

FEDERER

PARIS—Roger Federer, striking records on the tennis court is getting to be a pretty big habit for him.

The guy that some call Fed, like doing with Queen Elizabeth II, or the things is really remarkable.

"Yes, I have had lunch next to the Queen—with the Queen, literally," Federer said. "The Roma obviously. Thank God, she's not."

Federer beat Adrian Ungur of Romania, 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (6), 6-3, Tuesday in the second round of the French Open. With the win, the 16-time Grand Slam champion broke a record he shared with Jimmy Connors for most career victories in major tournaments in the Open era, which began in 1968. He is now 254-58 in career play from tournaments, an 81% winning percentage.

But he was less than fan-dominated self, warning two match points in the third set before losing the tiebreaker.

"Instead of losing aggressive, I let him throw this wicked ball at me," Federer said. "He played very beautiful shots, and then I started not playing very well."

Novak Djokovic also advanced to the third round, recalling needed Tennis Antonitsch of Belarus and No. 2 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland.

Radwanska defeated Venus Williams, 6-2, 6-0, eliminating the seven-time Grand Slam champion one day after Serena Williams lost in the first round.

On Thursday, defending champion Rafael Nadal will get back on court in his quest for a record seventh French Open title. No. 3 Maria Sharapova and No. 4 Petra Kvitova are also scheduled to play.

The top-ranked Djokovic, who beat Blaz Kavcic of Slovenia, 6-0, 6-4, 6-4, Tuesday, has won 23 straight Grand Slam matches and needs five more to tie fourth-straight major title.

"Everything is working great," Djokovic said. AP

4-way battle seen in GT race

THE COMPANY race driver's map to Batangas on Sunday as they take on their pursuit for fifteen in the 2012 Philippine GT Championship Series stages its third leg at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Defending champion driver Kenneth Bernardo, only finishing point in Celerio and four-time karting champion Aldino Marcelo give an extra incentive against reliable battle.

Highlighting the leg is the debut of the 2012 Philippine Formula Gregg Motorsports Series Jeremy Sarmiento and Jeremy Sarmiento.

Sarmiento, 16, and Manila driver is ranked the GT Main Race while Fernando Hernandez is on the 13th race last month.

Status Silva, Contributor

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Pressure builds up on overall leader Ravina

By Jason Navarro

LEGAZPI CITY—Relax Ravina is feeling the pressure that comes with holding the red jersey of overall leadership.

The mountain specialist from Antique, Pinagmulan, will let no stay at the helm for the 180k straight leg when Bicol's Filipinnas bikes off its Lanao leg today beginning with two stages in Bicol.

Ravina, the top Filipino in the Union Cycliste Internationale this ranking at No. 30, has been riding in red since Stage 3 in Batangas City and his streak could be halted anytime when the 23-leg Tour tackles tougher climbs ahead.

The contenders are expected to hold back in today's Stage 5, a short 115-kilometer trip that will pass through the Bangles of Mayon Volcano going to Daga City, but they are expected to attack in the first and mountain test in Matnog, Quezon, in Stage 6 on Saturday.

"We'll rehearse resting hard to keep the red jersey," said Ravina, the 20-year-old winner of the recent Le Tour de Filipinas and a three-time king of the mountain title-taker for Road Bike Philippines.

Tomorrow's Stage 6 from Daet, Camarines Norte, to Gubat City is the second longest leg in the race at 209 km.

It will be followed by the grueling Stage 7 on Sunday from Legazpi City to Antipolo City (195.1 km) where two climbs in Malabon and Tanay towns are expected to test the field more.

"Red Jersi is a lower position one you do good in three stages," said Philippine team skipper George Oconer, the reigning sprint king who played host last year.

Yesterday's out-day allowed the 46-rider field to recharge. The Stage 4's passage assisted from Calbayog City to Sirit, Juniuy, where the contingent was hosted to dinning, foregoes.

Overall, Ravina is ahead by 59 seconds over Turbo's Joseph Millanes, 1:50 in front of Oscar Riandoc of VMS-Mile, 1:56 clear of Eric Jones and 2:22 faster than Ivy Martin (Globidet).

Defending champion Ismel Rementuna is 5:37 back at 10th.

3 critical Ronda legs unfold in Bicol today

By Jun Navarro

LEGAZPI CITY—Even contender in the Ronda Pilipinas is anxious by coming to the Bicol stretch of the 23-stage bike thing.

And no reason is more excited than defending tennis champion LPGMA-Anaconda Work, whose coach and top two riders started different competitively later.

"Riding in Bicol will definitely give an added motivation," coach Rene Isidro, a two-time former Tour champion who hails from Ligao, Albay, said in Filipino.

The cycling club was crowned by LPGMA pair Encarnacion Arnel Tic and cycling pro Ryan Eric Ita is looking to strike hard in the next three stages beginning with the 133-kilometer stage to Naga City in Camarines Sur.

Somewhere's image is from Daet, Camarines Norte, as Tic plans Ita to the second longest in the 180-km at 209 km and highlighted by a tough Category 2 climb, 30 km to the finish.

"That leg is critical. Big changes in the standings could happen there," said team skipper and king of the mountain leader Irish Valenzuela of Tabaco, Albay.

Making the route spatial and simultaneously entertain is the Tour's first stage finish in Atimonan, Quezon, where a 2.8 km climb of ascending uphill route known as "Talking Tree" could create huge gaps in the standings.

"Everybody is reserving his strength. We're expecting tense to attack in that stage," said Cats, home of Gaga City Camarines Sur, who has been avoiding the Bicol-sized leaders jersey for four days and four fourth overall.

Caluag joins PH Olympic squad

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ISMAEL Caluag becomes only the eighth member of Team Philippines for the London Olympics after finishing 67 to the men's BMX competition through the runner OO BMX World Championships in Birmingham, England.

The 23-year-old Filipino-American amassed enough ranking points to qualify for the London Games, according to PhilCycling president and Tagaytay Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino yesterday.

The unbiased cycling school said Caluag's performance made him among the world's top 66.

"Hopefully, now will get the attention we deserve and boost the morale of our riders," Tolentino said.

Philippine Olympic team chief of mission Monty Lopez confirmed the qualification of Caluag—a four-time BMX top pro in the United States whose parents came from Bulacan—after receiving an e-mail from the London Organizing Committee for Olympic Games.

"We know (Caluag) will be a big asset to our small group," said Lopez, noting that Caluag is the only Asian to qualify in the event.

The seven athletes who have made it to the PH squad are swimmers Jessie Khing Lacuna and Jasmine Alkhaldi, boxer Mark Anthony Barriga, Josie Gabuco, Mansueto Velasco and athletes Marestella Torres and Flora Gutierrez.

Tolentino said a huge field of 175 riders were active in the tough Birmingham World Championship.

"(Caluag) has been in the country three times already but he has never received anything from the government," said Tolentino, adding he will ask the Philippine Sports Commission to provide his rider the allowances reserved for "elite athletes" of at least P30,000 a month. "Perhaps this is the time to recognize him. He is not a wild card entry; he qualified on his own merit."

VOLUNTEERS: Elated

GAMAL Caluag, the four-time top pro BMX rider in the US, qualified on his own merit. The pictures of the Cameroon-based athlete were originally from Manila.

Gamolo, Mariano top Minda golf q'fying

ELBERT Gamolo shot four birdies on the way to a one-under-par 71 yesterday to become the top seed in the multi-pilip stage of the SOMPO Mindanao Regional championship at the Apo Golf Club course in Davao.

The Balindong native tallied six even par 144 after two days of medal play and seized the lightest wedgeroom to the knockout stage—Benn Bilano, who shot an 82-for-262 and 10th spot in the event that is part of the MGAP Globe Amateur circuit.

Gilbert Lloyd Jefferson De Real a 69 and was second at 145, shooting 36- 33 four birdies, also returned an 85 for 230.

Rupert Enriquez was No. 3 after a 74 for 147, with Brenton Jamalla ending up fourth at 147, also after a 74 in the event backed by Fairway House, Titleist and Golf Depot.

Pamela Mariano topped the women's qualifying with an 80 for 158, with Eva Mafra to second at 168 after an 82. Mariano birdies Stella Barnes while Alfonsa Andrea Michelle Bawalan for second-round spots.

Amy Hannah shot a 78 for the 156 for first-round leader Noel Langamin. Heavier next down Annie Ocampo while Langamin birdies Bingco Asturias.

Zaragoza drew Fred Montano, a former ed-ity at Del Monte who shot a 174 for 360 and 34th spot. —Ronnie B. Gamillo

Superal charges back with 67 as Ardina falters

PRINCESS Superal fired a four-under-par 67 to emerge in second as emerging star Jenelyn Ardina had her putting touch and hobbled home with a 75, enabling Malaysian Emily Tan to catch the lead going into the final round of the Makiwan Ladies Invitational Golf Tournament Club Encinitas, scoring for the former to become the challenger's one at 138.

She shot three birdies behind Tan, who matched Superal's 67 to grab the solo lead at 136 heading to the final round of the 54-hole tournament.

Jenelyn added a 71 to a 68 in the first round and at 13-Day eight off Tan.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE
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Telefax: (632) 920-2071 • Telefax: (632) 920-2071
URL: http://www.nmis.gov.ph
E-mail: nmis@nmis.gov.ph

June 1, 2012

INVITATION TO BID
(Meat Inspection Services)

Sirs/Mesdames:

The National Meat Inspection Service through its Bids and Awards Committee invites contractors to bid for the Meat Inspection and Inspection of Meat Processing Plants in the Philippines, Phase 2.

Interested contractors may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above during office hours from June 1 – June 22, 2012.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested contractors upon the payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) and submission of the Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond issued by a surety or guarantee company duly accredited by the Insurance Commission, or a Manager's Check, or Cash in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00).

Bids must be delivered on or before 10:00 a.m. of June 22, 2012. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents.

Bid opening shall be on June 22, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

The NMIS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality therein, or accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

For more details, please contact the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at telephone number 920-2071 local 3301 or visit the NMIS website at www.nmis.gov.ph.

ATTY. ANTONIO M. CALVO
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE
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Telefax: (632) 920-2071 • Telefax: (632) 920-2071
URL: http://www.nmis.gov.ph
E-mail: nmis@nmis.gov.ph

June 1, 2012

INVITATION TO BID
(Supply of Cattle/Swine Ear Punch Marker Dies)

Sirs/Mesdames:

The National Meat Inspection Service through its Bids and Awards Committee invites contractors to bid for the supply of Cattle/Swine Ear Punch Marker Dies.

Interested contractors may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above during office hours from June 1 – June 22, 2012.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested contractors upon the payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) and submission of the Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond issued by a surety or guarantee company duly accredited by the Insurance Commission, or a Manager's Check, or Cash in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00).

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ATTY. ANTONIO M. CALVO
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

Department of Agriculture
[illegible]
[illegible]

INVITATION TO BID
SURVEY SERVICES FOR THE DETAILED ENGINEERING STUDY OF TUBAGAN MULTIPURPOSE IRRIGATION PROJECT

Sealed bids from duly licensed survey team companies/entities to apply for security bond to be issued by Surety Corporation for the detailed engineering study of Tubagan Multipurpose Irrigation Project.

Name of Project	Location	Approved Budget	TSAR Category	Contract Duration	Source of Funds/ Documents
Tubagan Multipurpose Irrigation Project	Tubagan, Abra and Tinoc, Ifugao	P 6,000,000.00	Level II	6.00	Procurement

Prospective bidders should have completed a similar contract and must submit the following: [illegible] Bidding documents may be purchased from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of [illegible] Pesos (P[illegible]).

Bid bulletin dates [illegible] Bid opening date and time: [illegible]

All participating bidders or Regional, Negotiated and Screening Committee Performing Security Functions (RNSCPSF) shall be given an opportunity to observe the opening of [illegible] and may witness the opening of the bids and all bidding procedures. [illegible]

The project is subject to [illegible] and other applicable laws.

Duration of Survey	[illegible]
Submission of Bid Documents	[illegible]
Bid Bond Confirmation	[illegible]
Opening of Bids	[illegible]
Post Qualification	[illegible]
Awarding of Bid	[illegible]

Bid Documents will be available for prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount to the Cashier.

The RNSCPSF reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract to any bidder in accordance with Section 41 of Republic Act 9184 and its revised IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

[illegible]
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

Approved By:
[illegible]
Chairman, RNSCPSF

Pasay Int'l Derby fires off; stellar cast vying

THE COUNTRY'S finest cockers and breeders and a sprinkling of foreign bidded plunge into action at the Pasay International Cockfighting Derby-cockfight with more than 500 fighter today at Pasay City Cockpit.

Tony Lozada of Batangas, cockchampion of the international derby's first leg in January, is back at the field and defending Are Sanford Lozano's crowns.

Godfather Select Rep. Bertrik Andrade, who holds a record of 500 or so hand and international derby championships, is also among the favorites to prevail.

Mayor Jovy Dungganhen, sole winner of the 2012 Pres El Mother Cup, will be pitted against Ramon Hermosisima, Rodolfo Pineda and Claude Ramirez, co-champions of the 2011 World Championship at Crab Derby last September.

"It will be an interesting battle between champion and champion from start to finish," said PCC pit manager Ric Alba Boria and Bombay Dinos.

Today's 3-cock eliminations will be presented by Sagayano Complejos 2000. The 3-cock 8-bird, 2-day derby has Pasay Mayor Jovy Dungganhen

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Mayo ₱ 51

Mayo ₱ 23

Nagaraya ₱ 11

Nagaraya ₱ 11

Pepsi ₱ 36

Mountain Dew ₱ 36

Knorr ₱ 59

Knorr ₱ 30

Mango ₱ 70

Onion ₱ 62

Pork Cubes ₱185

Monterey Beef Ground Round ₱286

Apple ₱ 27

Tomato Baguio ₱170

Magnolia Chicken Breast ₱140

Magnolia Chicken Tapa ₱179

Guyabano ₱ 75

Ginger ₱ 47

Tilapia ₱105

Century Smoked Bangus Belly ₱133

Creamsilk ₱158

Creamsilk ₱158

Suy ₱174

Suy ₱ 22

Vaseline ₱ 84

Vaseline ₱ 84

Huggies Total Protection ₱371

Huggies Total Protection ₱371

Sisters ₱ 15

Sisters ₱ 7

Cheers ₱ 59

Cheers ₱ 23

Kraft ₱148

Kraft Singles ₱229

Nestle ₱ 38

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Gardenia ₱ 12

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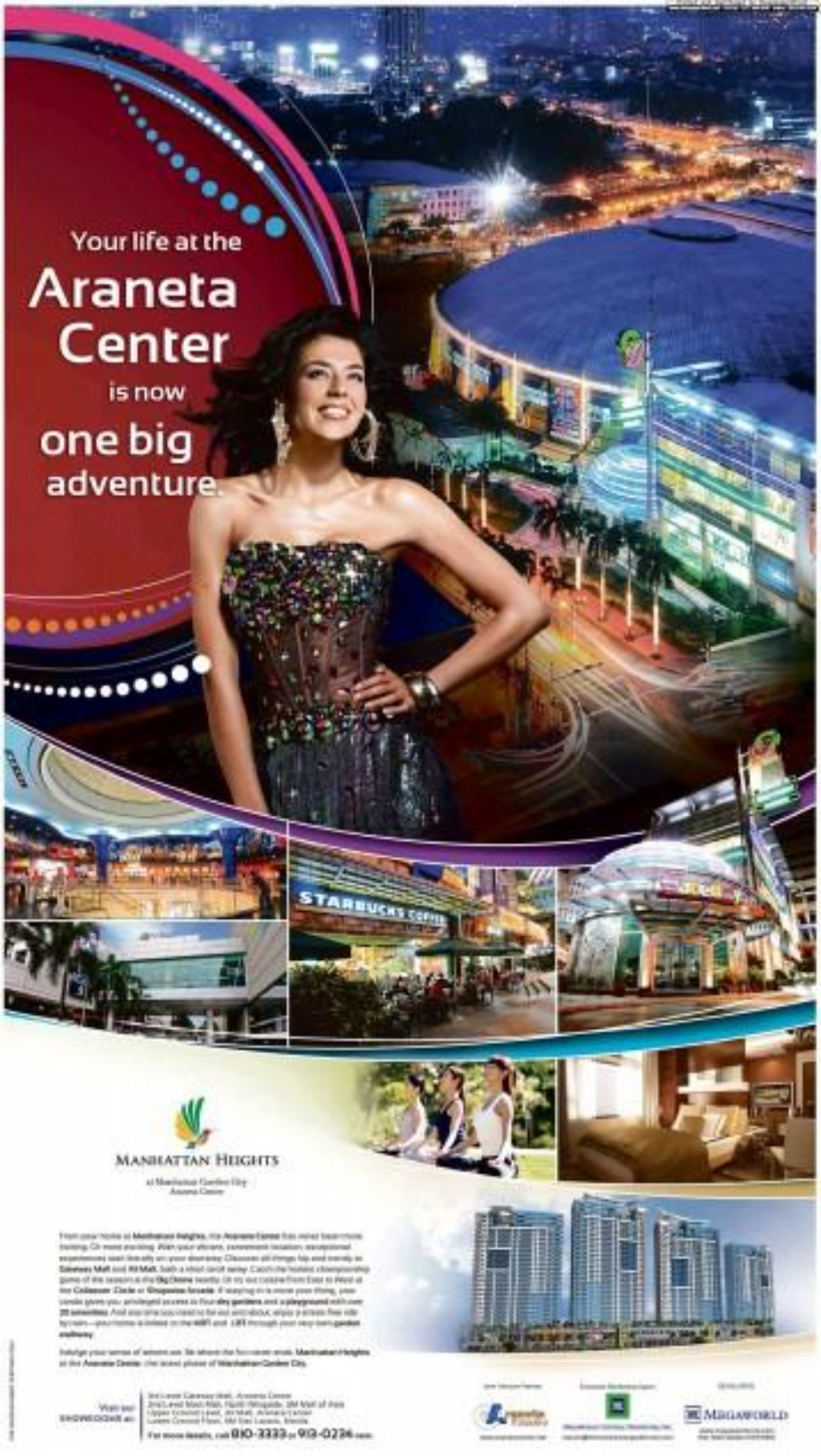

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DID YOU KNOW

THE MEMBERS of June was declared as Nationwide Smoking Month in the country through Presidential Proclamation No. 183, which was signed in 1988. In 2000, the Clean Air Act, which prohibits smoking in public places, was passed. The ordinance shall be implemented by local government units. Last year, the Metro Manila Development Authority started to enforce a smoking ban on certain public places in the Metro.
Edwin Escobio, Inquirer Research

City Hall staff caught in mayor, council row

Manila gov't contractual employees raise issue of unpaid salaries

By Jayrose T. Garal

DO YOU see any political color here?

Iran Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 09 Judge Ronald Whitaker smiled as asking this question, as the staff of Manila Vice Mayor "Isko Moreno" Domagoso and employees of Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim faced off on Thursday on the issued unpaid wages.

The hearing was the first for the mandamus petition filed by 18 city council employees against the officers-in-charge of the city treasurer's office and the city budget office, demanding the release of salaries they said were not given to them since April.

Around 700 casual and 405 contractual employees who had worked for a year under the city councilors and council presiding officer Domagoso, have stopped receiving their salaries after Mayor Alfredo Lim issued an executive order in March ordering a 50 percent reduction in the number of nonregular city hall employees from both the legislative and executive departments.

The issue had been cited by Domagoso in May as one of the reasons why he and the majority of the councilors moved over to the camp of former President Joseph "Erap" Estrada, Lim's rival in the 2013 mayoralty race.

"Do you see any political color in the situation of the executives?" Whitaker asked the petitioners' counsel.

The petitioners' counsel, Veronica Lindo, answered: "Maybe." But councilor Marlon Lacson, who was in the court along with at least four other councilors, answered point-blank: "Yes, your honor, there is."

Lacson pointed out that since 1998, the number of contractual and casual employees have increased five times, and that this was the first time a mandamus had been sought.

His statement was met with side comments from the city council staff who filled up the court room: "Kaya kay Erap na kami! (That's why we are for Erap!)" or "Kung bakit pasahan na! (And it had to come when duma-ans na tayo!)"

In a previous interview, respondent Marlon de Guzman, officer in charge of the city treasurer's office, explained that Lim issued the executive order following a Commission on Audit report in March which sought action from the city government on the P1.1 billion overpayment of personal services in 2011.

City legal officer Renato de la Cruz, representing De Guzman and fellow respondent Ariel Rosero of the city budget office, explained after the hearing that the payrolls of the casual and contractual staff were not processed after the council refused to follow Lim's executive order and continued to retain all its nonregular employees.

"They have not submitted a payroll that has been reduced. They payroll has your name saying: P500 million, whereas we only had P98 million. So we reduced 717 personnel," De la Cruz said.

He added that they then decided to adopt an "alphabetic"

OTT MALI, YCH

2 male victims of brutal killings reported in QC

By Julie M. Aurelio

A MAN carrying packets of suspected illegal drugs was shot dead by still unknown gunmen on Wednesday evening in Quezon City.

Samuel Pontevero, 40, was found slumped on Tiendesitas Street in Barangay Ugong, Pasig after a shootout in the neighborhood local guardians.

The women told policemen that the man inside his home at around 11 p.m. when the latter's door outside her home.

When she came out to investigate, she said she saw the victim already dead from several gunshot wounds.

Police said they found a packet of suspected "shabu" in the victim's pocket.

Investigators also recovered five empty 9 mm shells, one sling and a kitchen knife abandoned near the victim's body.

More than an hour later at 12:40 a.m. of the following day the body of a man was found with slab wounds in the back along Mindoro Vista Street in Barangay Bahay-Toro.

The victim, Jessel Manansala, 21, was identified by his mother.

Authorities found the body after a motorist received a call at the barangay hall reporting the discovery.

Police are still investigating the possible motives for both brutal killings.

Taxi passenger files extortion charges vs 2 Manila policemen

By Jullianne de Jesus
Chief Reporter

TWO MANILA policemen were charged yesterday with extortion after they allegedly demanded P1,000 from their taxi passenger whom the two policemen threatened to arrest on fabricated charges of overloading and trespassing.

SPO2 Joseph Ramos and PO2 Rio Reyes, both assigned at the Manila Police District Station 6 in Binondo, Manila (MPD-MPS), are now facing charges filed in the Ombudsman's office.

Jhessen Viray, 28, of Villamor Air Base, Pasay City, said in his complaint that he and his other companions were on a Cubao-to-City-bound cab when Ramos and Reyes, who were on patrol, flagged down the vehicle at around 2:30 a.m. on Wednesday along Road 10 in Tondo.

The taxi driver pulled over, alighted from the car, and talked with the policemen.

After a few minutes, the driver returned followed by Ramos and Reyes, who knocked on the window using their guns.

Ramos and the policemen ordered them to present their bags for inspection, claiming that one of them was carrying a firearm.

When none of the taxi passengers yielded a handgun, the policemen asked for identification cards while inspecting Viray's wallet.

What those of them were not able to produce IDs, the police men allegedly threatened to arrest them for vagrancy and for overloading, since only six can be allowed to take four passengers.

Ramos and Reyes then allegedly offered to drop the charges if Viray "settled" with them with the money in his wallet.

Viray claimed that he offered to pay them P500 but Reyes refused the amount and allegedly said that the amount should be higher.

The policemen reportedly asked for P1,000, saying that there were three persons being a vagrancy charge.

Viray paid the amount and they were promptly released by the MPD-PIU team.

The complainant insisted that he reported the incident to the MPD Criminal Investigation Section, which filed the criminal case against them.

The two policemen are also facing an administrative charge.

City Hall staff caught in row

From page A20

formula. They would only concern the payroll of 50 percent of the non-regular city council staff, in alphabetical order.

But City Legal Officer Atty. Jay Guerrero said the majority of the councilors will stand their ground against the reduction of non-regular staff.

He expressed the council and Domingson's opinion that Lim's executive order was too "drastic" and his alphabetic formula "arbitrary."

"The legislature is separate from the executive. They can't just issue an order governing the council. It is up to the vice mayor's discretion if he will exercise or retain the council staff," Domingo added.

For this reason, he said most of the councilors refuse to let their eligible non-regular staff process their salaries unless all of them are considered to do so by the executive department, adding that they would rather wait for the court's decision on the amendment petition.

"If the matter is really urgent, the members have to do is to call the vice mayor and the council to convene but for now, they think we never say offer to discuss this. There was no consultation, no dialogue on the financial status of Manila," Guerrero lamented.

The next session hall on the petition has been scheduled on Tuesday where Domingson is expected to testify for the petitioners.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. III-A
[illegible]
Telefax Nos. (045) 961-2292

June 01, 2012

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign Nationals	Position and Brief Description of Duties
1.	**SINGLE PRECISION MANUFACTURING (PHILIPPINES), INC.** Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Kenji Yamada/ Japanese	Senior Manager
2.	**PHILIPPINE NAKANO VENTURA, INC.** 4/F Ubi, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Kenji Nakanishi/ Japanese	General Manager – Production
3.	**LEADER GARMENTS CORPORATION** Km. 49 Aguinaldo Highway, Cavite	Ms. Ya... Li Chen/ Taiwanese	Production Designer
4.	**ENKEI PHILIPPINES, INC.** 4/F Corporate Center, City Laguna	Mr. Yukihiro Ishikawa/ Japanese	Quality Assurance / Quality Control Department's Adviser
5.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Akihiro Uemura/ Japanese	Equipment Engineering Group Manager
6.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Shinichi Kitagawa/ Japanese	CAD Engineer
7.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Masakatsu Aoki/ Japanese	Manufacturing Deputy Group Manager
8.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Mikio Abe/ Japanese	CDP Section Manager
9.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Norifumi Ikemura/ Japanese	Facility Engineer
10.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Masaru Takeda/ Japanese	CDP Division Manager
11.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Kensuke Ito/ Japanese	CDP Engineer
12.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Isao Sugiura/ Japanese	Quality Industrial Deputy Group Manager
13.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Kuni Kodama/ Japanese	Vice President
14.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Takamori Yamada/ Japanese	CDP Engineer
15.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Hiroshi Hara/ Japanese	CDP Deputy Group Manager
16.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Takeshi Fukahori/ Japanese	CDD Division Manager
17.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Hiroki Ikeda/ Japanese	CDP Section Manager
18.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Yasunori Yamaguchi/ Japanese	Equipment Engineering Division Manager
19.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Shoji Kodaka/ Japanese	TPM Group Manager
20.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Takeshi Tsuji/ Japanese	Facility Deputy Group Manager
21.	**GIKEN PHILIPPINES, INC.** 3/F Ayala Tec. Temas, Batangas	Mr. Minoru Akimoto/ Japanese	Administration Manager

If you have any information/objection by the above-mentioned application(s) please communicate with the Regional Director.

ALEX V. AVILA
OIC – Regional Director

To avail of free job referral, employers and prospective employees are encouraged to register and file applications at Employment Services Offices. FREE! Log on to www.phil-job.net

Elderly American priest didn't make it home

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AN ELDERLY American priest was found dead before noon Wednesday inside his room at a retirement house in Manila on the same day that he was set to go home to the US.

Joseph Schwegmann, 82, of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, was discovered at around 11:30 a.m. inside his room at the Missionary Society of St. Columban at the corner of San Jacinto and Mendiola Streets in Malate.

Fr. Amable Lopez, of the Manila Police District (MPD) Homicide Section, said Schwegmann arrived at the missionary house on Monday morning and stayed inside his room to prepare for his flight back to the US.

Lopez said Schwegmann, who has been with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for 20 years, was supposed to arrive in the US on Wednesday afternoon.

A report sent to the case investigator revealed that hours before noon on Wednesday, the staff of the missionary house began to wonder why the priest had not shown any signs that he was preparing for his departure.

A member of the missionary house's staff, Jonathan Ilacio, then decided to knock on his door to inquire.

When there was no response, Ilacio used a duplicate key to open the door to the room where he discovered the victim's body.

Lopez noted that while the body bore no external injuries, it was already bloated, showing that the priest could have been dead for sometime.

He offered the theory that the elderly priest died of a natural cause.

The body was brought to the St. Jude Funeral Parlor for autopsy. The US Embassy has already been informed of Schwegmann's death.

MIGRATE/STUDY
NURSES – Australia

- With or waiting for AMRRA APPROVAL (NO IELTS needed)
  Haven't applied yet to AMRRA
- Nurses with/without EXPERIENCE
- NURSES with BROKERAGE LICENSE
  - Must have minimum of 2 years experience in Midwifery & Hospital
- Under-board Nurses, Med Techs, Engineers, Teachers, Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists & many others.

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MANILA June 03, 09 & 17, 2012 @ Ayala Cubao
Time: 1:00 – 4:00pm @ 3/F Gen Cisneros Bldg.
(Formerly Pepsi) New 311 Manila City 1231, Philippines
Visa Consultant: Cosme Suarez

CEBU on June 10, 2012 @ Summit Circle
Time: 1pm @ Fuente Osmeña Circle, Cebu City, Cebu 6000

"Become One of the Lucky Ones"
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Mobile: 0918 747 3839

We are not a recruitment agency

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Capitol Building
Arterial Road, Bangkal, 8017 Davao City

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Department of Labor and Employment – Regional Capitol Region through the Alien Employment Permit (AEP) Trust Fund invites all to apply the said Alien Worker Fee Assessed Using Value Computed From Mandatory Expenses and OCW Expense only (P4,000.00) for the Processing of Alien Employment Permit (AEP) and the Authorization of Activities (Contract) Alien Employment Permit Extension for the purpose. Only persons in receipt of the ABC shall be automatically awarded of the agency.
2. The DOLE-NCR invites bids for the outsourcing of services. The submission of an eligible bidder is conducted by the Bidding Documents, particularly Section 3 of instructions to bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding in accordance with the Government Bidding Procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizen or sole proprietorship or cooperatives, or corporate organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to the organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subsidiary regulations (RA 6810).
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from DOLE-NCR Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat's office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during regular office hours from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bidding Documents are available at DOLE-NCR.
6. A complete and eligible bidding documents may be acquired by interested bidders at the address below from no. 10 giving payment for a non-refundable fee for bidding documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) only. The method of payment shall be in the form of cash or manager's check payable to DOLE-NCR.
7. Bidding may be conducted from the adopted Alien Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the DOLE-NCR, provided that Bidders shall pay the corresponding fee at the Treasurer for Bidders' Participation in the Procurement Process. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years from the date of submission of bids.
8. The DOLE-NCR will host a Pre-Bid Conference at its adopted Bidders Room at DOLE-NCR Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE-NCR Building, Intramuros, Manila, Manila.
9. Bidders can reference no. or before 2:00 p.m. of June 21, 2012 (Thursday). Bids submitted before June 21, 2012, shall be delivered to the Office of the BAC, Administrative Division, DOLE-NCR Building, Intramuros, Manila. Bids submitted on June 21, 2012, shall be opened at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE-NCR Building, 901 Intramuros, Manila, Manila. All bids must be accompanied by bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 14.
10. Bid opening shall be on June 21, 2012 (Thursday), 2:00 p.m. at the DOLE-NCR – BAC's Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or their authorized representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.
11. The DOLE-NCR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).
12. For further information, please contact:
Ms. Jovem J. Palma
BAC Secretariat
DOLE-NCR Bldg., 901 Intramuros St., Manila, Manila
Telefax No. (02) 527-3265
www.ncr.dole.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANNA P. MENDOZA
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

June 01, 2012

METROBRIEFS

Annabelle seeks deferment of arraignment

SILENT manager Annabelle Rama has asked a Quezon City court to defer her arraignment pending her appeal on the 12 counts of libel by Senate she allegedly made against former actress Gelia Montemayor. Rama is seeking a 90-day postponement of the indictment so she is still questioning her indictment by the Quezon City Prosecutors Office. Prayrolled her omnibus motion through lawyer Dan de Guzman is after Judge Elisabeth Ballon-Ortiz, Regional Trial Court Branch 82, must be in agreement on June 11. The former manager also asked the court to reconsider its May 28 order denying her motion to quash the criminal charges against Rama's being 12 counts of libel for making allegedly malicious remarks against Montemayor and similar statements made on her TV talk shows last year. Montemayor had accused Rama of child abuse over her teenage daughter's show business careers. In her appeal, Rama argued for the reversal of the order, saying it could have been based on the wrong understanding that she was claiming that the court has no jurisdiction over the proceedings. She added that should no resolution be issued against her motion for reconsideration of the libel cases in her possible appeal to the Supreme Court of justice, she is willing to be arraigned "without any reservations or preconditions." — Julie M. Aurelio

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BATANGAS II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Alitagtag del Norte, Lipa City

INVITATION TO BID

WHAT	Bidding for the Annual Maintenance and Testing of Substation Equipment and SF6 Gas Quality Testing (BE-BAC-12-02)
WHEN	June 06, 2012 (Pre-Bidding Conference) – Bidding for the Annual Maintenance and Testing of Substation Equipment and SF6 Gas Quality Testing, 10:00 a.m.
WHERE	2nd Floor, Main Office, Staff House Conference Room, Alitagtag del Norte, Lipa City

Those interested Bidders shall bring the following Pre-Qualification Documents:

1. Business Registration to BTO or SEC
2. Permit to Operate (Repair), Permit
3. Company Profile / Company Profile
4. Audited Financial Statement
5. Updated Income Tax Return
6. Clearance/Ang Dokumento/Barangay Clearance
7. Notarized Authorization from the company being represented (for Representatives).

For inquiries, prospective bidders may call BAC Secretary, Raquel D. Cantos at (043) 756-4237 local (202)/206.

PREPARED:

(Sgd.) **EDITHA A. TAÑA**
Procurement, Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson

(Sgd.) **ENGR. OCTAVIUS M. MENDOZA**
Assistant General Manager

The WORLD

Editor Lorena B. Chavez

US considers bypassing UN on Syria

UNITED NATIONS—If the UN Security Council does not take swift action to pressure Syria to end its 14-month assault on the opposition, member nations may have no choice but to consider acting outside the United Nations, the US envoy to the world body said on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters after intergovernmental meetings Kofi Annan's deputy, Jean-Marie Guehenno, gave the 15-nation council a bleak assessment of the impact of Annan's efforts to halt the violence in Syria, US Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice said there were three ways the Syrian crisis could end.

The first would be if Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, government decided to comply with its obligations under Annan's six-point peace plan—dropping its military assault on Syrian towns, withdrawing heavy weapons, returning troops to barracks and talking with the opposition on a "political transition."

The second option would involve the council taking action to pressure Damascus to fully comply with the Annan plan, she said.

Neither of those scenarios appear likely because Damascus has shown no interest in living up to its commitments and Russia has made clear that any Security Council moves to step up the pressure on Assad's government through sanctions are out of the question.

"In the absence of either of those two scenarios then course is to look case-by-case other alternatives, and that is indeed the worst case," Rice said, adding that it was unfortunately looking like "the most probable."

"That is that the violence overflows, the conflict spreads and intensifies," she said. "It involves countries in the region, it takes on increasingly sectarian forms, and we have a major crisis not only in Syria but in the region."

In such a case, Rice said, the Annan plan would be dead and the Syrian violence would become "a proxy conflict with arms flowing in from all sides."

Most members of this council and members of the international community are left with the option only of hoping to convince whether they're prepared to take actions outside of the Annan plan and the authority of the council," she said.

She did not specify what kind of "actions" she meant. The United States has not gun military intervention that were not authorized by the Security Council, namely in Kosovo and Iraq.

So far the United States and its Western allies have rejected military options and said they would not arm the rebels.

Germany Ambassador Peter Wittig said council members expressed revulsion at the massacres in Houla last week, which more than 100 people, including many children, were killed, probably by Shabiha government forces and militia.

Wittig urged the council to consider a resolution that would condemn "spoilers" of the Annan plan and suggested that it think about whether the mission of unarmed observers should be expanded.

The British and French governments spoke of the need to intensify pressure on Assad's government.

But Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said Moscow, which holds a veto on the Security Council, opposes the idea of stitching up pressure on Damascus in the form of UN resolution.

"Our attitude toward sanctions, frankly, continues to be negative," he said, adding that Moscow wants countries doing so to stop supplying weapons to Syrian rebels. He also voiced concern about the increasing presence of extremists in Syria.

Asked about Russia's supply of weapons to Assad's government, Churkin said "The weapons we sorry have provided to Syria under various contracts, which were concluded a long time ago, are fully in line with international law and do not contribute to the current armed violence in Syria."

The expulsion of Syrian diplomats from several countries, including the United States, could be interpreted as a precursor to foreign military intervention in Syria, Churkin said.

Reuters

UN OBSERVERS have discovered 13 bound corpses in eastern Syria, many of them apparently shot execution-style, the monitoring mission said on May 31.

Barak: Israel should weigh imposed borders

MEMBERS of the Palestinian security forces arrange Palestinian flags on coffins containing the remains of 91 militants transferred from Israel to the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah, on May 31. Israel transferred the bodies in an effort to reduce Palestinian anger ahead of renewed negotiations. Palestinian officials said all were killed either while carrying out suicide bombings or other attacks on Israeli targets.

TEL AVIV, Israel—Defense Minister Ehud Barak said Wednesday that Israel should consider imposing the borders of a future Palestinian state, bypassing the peace process and the current stalemate in negotiations to suggest beginning a negotiated peace process.

Barak's statements to consider what he said many Israelis call "unilateral actions," without offering any specifics, echoed an emerging chorus of political leaders, analysts and intellectuals who have said that Israel needs to implement its own solution to the Palestinian crisis.

Though the Israeli government continues to call for negotiations to avoid a two-state solution, the drive for a one-sided approach also received a boost on Wednesday from the Institute for National Security Studies, a respected research center that is close to the military and security establishment.

Barak called for "no interim agreement, maybe even unilateral actions," during a conference organized by the institute, but he added, "Nothing is done that Jews will become a minority in their own state, he added, "function is not a possibility."

Israel cannot afford stagnation," Barak said. "It will be a difficult decision to make, but the time is running out."

Calls for direct action are based on the impression that negotiations are no longer feasible because of mounting political divisions on both sides and the changing dynamics inspired by the Arab Spring, which demand that Israel's leaders take popular opinion into consideration more than ever before with widespread public resentment that some advocates of this approach have also said that they believe the door should remain open to negotiations, suggesting that unilateral steps would be phased in over many years and be designed, in part, to give Israel a strategic hand in final status talks.

The Palestinian Authority has opposed any effort by Israel to decide the contours of its territory and abandon a negotiated settlement as a wide range of issues. The Palestinian Authority, however, did little to even unilateral steps last fall, when it pursued United Nations recognition, something it is considering doing again. Israel has criticized such efforts by arguing that only the boundaries of negotiations.

The Obama administration has strongly opposed unilateral actions by either side, and some senior Israeli officials have worried that such a move by Israel could provoke an uprising by Palestinians.

"The core issues of the conflict can only be resolved by direct negotiations," Daniel B. Shapiro, the US ambassador to Israel, said Wednesday. Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Authority, also objected to the call for unilateralism, saying, "This policy would lead to a solution and would prolong the conflict. It will end the idea of the two-state solution."

Both Barak and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the recent conference that Iran, too, presented a final status solution of two states for two peoples, and that the Israeli right government they formed earlier this month promised to engage opportunity to open a deal. But many have not been impressed at all but impossible and not sending some approach.

Barak, who briefly spoke about the Palestinian conflict at the end of a wide-ranging lecture, did not offer any specifics by design, according to a senior aid who said later that "what he's talking about is the importance of taking action."

Ehud Eldan, the Kadima Party leader whose alliance with Netanyahu collapsed this month, accused the government of "99 out of 120 members of Parliament, has acknowledged creating an intentional binational state on 60 percent of the West Bank, with settlers allowed increasingly to or being forced to leave their homes.

New York Times News Service

In Thailand, Burmese call out to Mother Suu

MAE SOT, Thailand—After a weeklong visit to Thailand, Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the long-imprisoned democracy campaigner, would visit this gritty town on the Thai border with Burma, the most fervent cheers in the narrow dirt and shrimp-processing plants where some Burma Myanmar workers she cast a living and where she is known as Amay.

But Wai Wai Khaing, who has spent the past 12 years working long hours grading fish, she never sees almost too much to handle. "I tried to work, and then I cried at home," she said. "I cried when I made rice. I cried when I washed the dishes. Every time I thought about her coming."

Wednesday was Suu Kyi's first full day outside Burma in 24 years, and for a woman who has sacrificed her family life to bring democracy to her people, it seemed fitting that she began the day among the first democracy activists to emerge from Burma.

Her visit to this obscure corner of Thailand offered an escape from the drudgery of long days of repetitive work and stingy hours.

Many in the crowd repeated the word used so often by the women of Suu. Kyi's years of campaigning for democracy: Amay.

If her visit here was to lift their spirits, it seemed to have succeeded.

"Being here is the best thing that has ever happened to me in my life —including passing my exams in school," said Pyae Sone Shein, a 22-year-old woman who works in the border's brokers, reporting equal from Burma. "I never dreamed I would see Mother Suu."

Exhilarated by the coming turn, the crowd welcomed her with loud cheers, shouts and songs. Some carried bouquets; others clutched single roses. Some carried signs that said, "We want to be enrolled in your name, Mother Suu."

"There is an need to feel sad or depressed thing in a country that is our years," she told the crowd from a third-floor balcony of a building above the crowded streets.

More than 2 million Burmese workers are estimated to live in Thailand, and many occupy the bottom rungs of society.

In Mahachai, workers get fish and peel shrimp for 300 baht, or about $10, a day. Much of the nearly 500 tons of shrimp exported from Thailand every day passes through Mae Sot, and ends up in supermarkets in the United States, Europe and Japan.

Workers live in crowded, ramshackle tenements, and the smell of fish wafts through the town with every breeze.

Kun Ko told the crowd that one day, that status would be ended, that their country would rejoin the ranks of free's up-and-coming economies.

"History is fluid, and it is always changing," she said. "Please believe that as our country's economy gets better and develops more, our ethnic problems will lessen, and people's perceptions are all of exchange by the better."

She advised the crowd to leave their rights and encouraged them to speak out about abuses.

"I would like to see you know that you are not forgotten," she said.

Many in the crowd were left with tears. She Wai Phyo Khaing, whose hands were shaking when she talked about her life in the country. "I'm very angry about how we are being treated," she said. "I hope Daw Suu can help address this."

New York Times News Service

WORLDBRIEFS

Mubarak's sons charged with insider trading

CAIRO—Prosecutors charged Gamal and Alaa Mubarak, the imprisoned sons of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, with insider stock trading Wednesday just two days before both were unexpectedly freed from the jail in a criminal trial charging them with corruption resulting from their father's three decades of rule. State television reported that the Mubarak brothers and seven other men, including the ousted president of Egypt's most prominent investment bank, were charged with "abuse of power" in connection with a 2006 deal in which the government sold 80 percent of Egypt's Nile Corniche Hotels for $1.2 billion to Orascom Hotels and Development, a company owned by businessman Nassef Sawiris. The deal was criticized at the time for undervaluing the hotels, which are considered prime real estate. The Mubarak brothers have been in prison since last spring. The new charges against Mubarak's children, once untouchable as entities, are another sign that the military rulers that replaced Mubarak are willing to let some of the country's wealthy elite pay for their sins. Gamal Mubarak, 48, once was widely expected to succeed his father as president, after his father's death. Alaa Mubarak, 49, is a once-prominent businessman who kept a low public profile. New York Times News Service

Brazil jolted by claim that Lula pressured judge

BRASILIA—Brazil's political establishment is being shaken by a charge that Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the country's most influential contemporary politician, tried last summer to use a high court judge to delay a trial over a scheme buying scandal involving high-ranking members of the governing Workers Party. Judge Cezar Peluso Monday has asserted that the then-president, who recently underwent treatment for throat cancer, asked him to help in the matter. The capital, in response to the trial, and for August. More than 100 members are implicated in the scandal, dubbed by the media at the time, the "mensalao" or "big allowance." The statement refers to the monthly payments said to have been made to legislators during the Silva's presidency. The claim by Peluso, made in an article now the weekend in the news magazine Veja, has spurred a rather feud between him and Da Silva. The former president confirmed that the meeting at Brasília's city palace, but dismissed the judge's assertion that she is asking for a delay as "untrue." New York Times News Service

Vatican crisis highlights Pope's failure to reform Curia

By Tom Heneghan, Religion Editor

VATICAN CITY—When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger became Pope Benedict in 2005, spoken like "God's Rottweiler" and "Panzerkardinal" suggested he would bring some German efficiency to the opaque Vatican bureaucracy, the Curia.

Instead, as the "Vatileaks" scandal has revealed, the head of the Roman Catholic Church's court's even keep his own private mail secret. His head-pitched deputy Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, known a "neocolonial ruling" by prelates in the Italian bureaucracy.

Benedict's papacy has been marked until now by court scandals over things he has said and done, such as his criticism of Islam at Regensburg in 2006 or his 2009 decision to readmit four excommunicated Lefebvrite bishops to the Church.

Here a goal he has failed to achieve—gain control over the Curia—has come back to haunt him. Leaks of confidential documents on everything from Italian finances to private papal audiences make his papacy look weak and disorganized.

"We've always forgotten that reform of the Curia was part of Benedict's program at the start," recalled Isabelle de Gaudemar, who was Vatican correspondent for the French Catholic daily La Croix for years.

"Several years later, the Curia has never resisted so opaque, ineffective, closed and badly governed as it is today."

The "Vatileaks" scandal has revealed, among other issues, the infighting behind the ousting of the Vatican bank president. The papal nuncio under him has accused an unspecified of stealing documents that have since been leaked to the media.

The target seems to be Italian Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state (prime minister), who seems to accept him of planting politicos and blocking their efforts to stamp out corruption and corruption in finance management.

The Curia, a centuries-old bureaucracy dominated by Italian diplomats, is essential to the success or failure of a papacy because it can effectively control or water down papal decisions if they go against long-standing interests or traditions.

In some cases from the Curia would be a royal court such as issuing encyclicals or developing departments, committees and bishoprics. Benedict asked in an interview-filled Renaissance monarchy that a modern and transparent democratic governance.

The institution first grew the world this word "reporter" is not always a model maintenance either. Some officials are talented and clearly noble others are bureaucrats who seem to owe their posts more to connections than capabilities.

Each department has an advisory board of cardinals and bishops and those who sit on several boards can create powerful links that can secure department finances, influence policy.

Pressure for reform grew during the long reign of Pope John Paul. He announced changes in the 1980s to give local bishops more say in central policy-making but focused more on his travel and preaching and did not really implement it.

Benedict was seen as the first cleric to reform it since he took over a Curia member since 1981 and reportedly knew it inside out. Now the real looks set to be handed on to his successor.

The last time anyone has ever really controlled it, or was created it," Thomas H. Noble, history professor at Notre Dame University in Indiana, said of the bureaucracy housed on the Vatican grounds and in office buildings nearby.

The Curia has held its own in Church power terms although successive Italian popes and the growing majority of Catholics from the developing world.

In February, the last time Benedict named new cardinals, 10 of the 18 who were under the Church papal agency Curia officials, increased their number to 33 percent of the votes in the next conclave, meaning they will play an important role in the election and could try to win the papacy back for Italy.

Reuters

SHELL LAUNCHES NEW GENERATION OF PERFORMANCE FUELS

Shell launches its latest generation of premium performance fuels – Shell V-Power Nitro+ Gasoline, Shell V-Power Nitro+ Racing and Shell V-Power Nitro + Diesel, designed to improve performance and to act instantly in your engine.

The Philippines is one of the first countries in the world to see the introduction of the new premium performance fuels, which will directly replace the Shell V-Power fuels and Shell Super Premium currently available in the Philippines.

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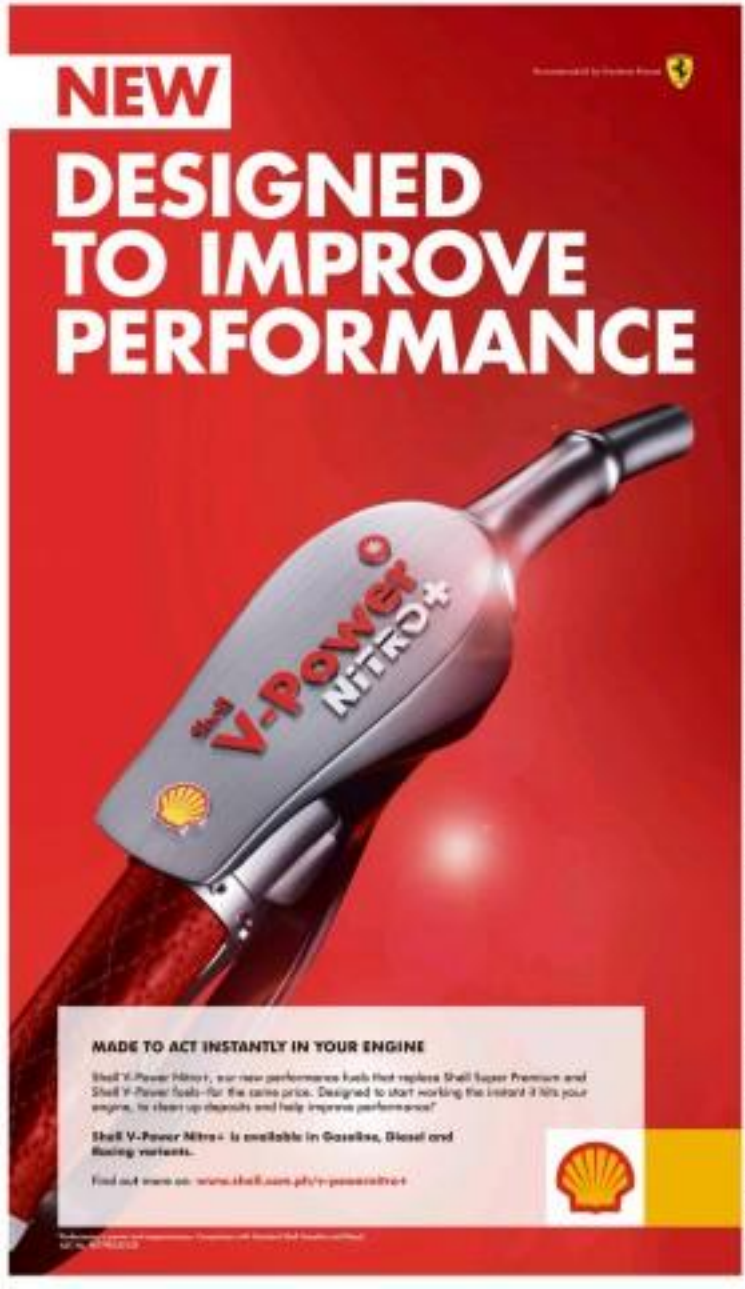

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

BSP considers scaling down BOP forecast

Problems in Europe, US may spell bad news for country's GIR

By Michelle V. Rama

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is having second thoughts about its forecasts on the country's balance of payments (BOP) and gross international reserves (GIR) this year and may have to scale down the growth figures due to the prolonged debt crisis in parts of Europe and its impact on the global economy.

"We are mindful of the risks in the external environment, particularly the weakness in the euro zone, muted growth in the United States, and slowdown in China," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said, finding it a reflection of BOP and GIR growth projections.

Earlier this year, the central bank said the country's BOP would hit a surplus of $3.9 billion, while the GIR could see a new record high of $70 billion.

Andalucia and the actual figures could be a little less than the central bank's original forecasts because of the problems abroad.

BOP is a record of the country's financial transactions with the rest of the world and shows the flow of foreign currencies in and out of the country.

Latest data from the central bank showed that the BOP stood at a surplus of $1.45 billion in the first two months of the year—down from last year's $3.47 billion.

Also, the country's GIR stood at $95 billion in the first four months of the year.

Exports, foreign portfolio investments, foreign direct investments, and remittances account for bulk of the foreign currency inflows in the Philippines.

Remittances are expected to grow by 5 percent this year, while the rise in foreign direct investments is seen to hold steady. But economists said the figures for exports and foreign portfolio investments could be weaker than expected.

Exports growth in 2012 was originally seen at 10 percent. But the latest report from the National Statistics Office showed that exports grew by only 4.6 percent in the first quarter.

For now, funds that are not committed to specific projects will be allocated instead to fast-moving projects to sustain the current pace of expenditures.

"This will allow us to clear bottlenecks in local infrastructures so that agencies can speed up the implementation of programs and projects and meet scheduled deadlines," he explained.

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the "impressive [and] supportive-defying" growth in the first quarter highlighted the country's resilience, as well as its capacity to grow faster, providing jobs and reducing poverty in the long run.

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
June 1, 2012
43.500

STOCK MARKET
June 1, 2012
▲ 72.91

PSEi up on positive news

STOCKS prices yesterday recovered from losses in the morning session to close sharply higher in the afternoon on the back of positive economic news.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index rose 72.91 points to reach 5,091.23, representing an increase of 1.45 percent.

The PSEi was down by as much as 67 points in midmorning, before the government announced the country's first quar-

PSEi/B3

In services sector, over 100,000 jobs open

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE SERVICES sector, expected to be the main growth driver of the Philippine economy today, now got bigger with the opening of a portal that promised 100,000 new jobs, according to the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP).

The group aims to generate 1,20,000 jobs this year to meet its target of employing 1.3 million Filipinos by 2016.

New graduates and professionals who want to find rewarding careers need not look far as opportunities in the industry are now available through the career portal "Work Abroad. Live Here. (www.workabroadlivehere.com)," BPAP said in a statement.

"We've received a very positive response from online job seekers. Many of them are already seeking jobs relevant to a wide range of disciplines," BPAP

IN SERVICES/B2

DBM forces agencies to speed up spending

By Norma W. Dominguez

THE DEPARTMENT of Budget and Management will "increase pressure" on executive departments and agencies to speed up the use of public funds to help, in turn, catch-drive up the country's growth.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad cited economic planners when he said that growth in the first quarter could be attributed to strong government spending, especially in infrastructure.

Data from the National Statistics and Coordination Board showed that, compared with last year, the public construction sector grew by 62.2 percent, while government consumption increased by 24 percent.

Abad said government spending for key socio-poverty and social programs—such as Sustained Conditional Cash Transfer, Basic Education Development, salary increases under the Salary Standardization Law III, and priority projects for rice and other agricultural products.

"We expect to further boost the pro-social momentum for government consumption through reinvestment measures for line agencies," Abad said.

PSEi/B3

New CAB rule said to hurt budget airlines

By Paolo Luis Moncada

still ASIA Inc., the country's newest carrier, said the government would kill the "goose that lays the golden eggs" with a new rule that forces companies to accommodate free passengers or "no-shows."

"The new rule will force airlines to refund tickets or allow the rebooking of seats of passengers who do not show up for their flights—at all. The rule, under Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) Resolution 20, will take effect on June 15.

"Our business needs at the premise that with capital, I am concerned about the rule that, if a passenger arrives late through his own fault or does not check in because he did not wake up on time, a carrier would be obliged to make a refund," Air Asia CEO Matthew Middlework said. "We understand the need to protect the consumer, but please, don't throw out the baby out with the bath."

Hentzwen was speaking at the sidelines of the launch of the company's new online flight booking tool for travel agents, powered by Spanish transportation technology company Amadeus Airline IT Solutions.

"The government will kill the goose that lays the golden eggs," Hentzwen stressed, pleading not that air travel and tourism in the country grow because of the low fares offered by budget airlines.

She said mandatory refunds, even for errant passengers, went against the low-cost carrier business model that sought to cut unnecessary costs in all areas of operations. Any deviation from the low-margin model would mean higher fares for passengers.

"If we are forced to make refunds, we will have to make allowances for that so we will have to raise our fares," said Hentzwen, who leads the Philippine unit of Malaysia's Air Asia Berhad, Southeast Asia's largest airline group.

The new rule on refunds was one of several regulations passed by the Department of Transportation and Communications, through the CAB, in the past two months.

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Member, London Trichology Association / Member, International Trichology Association / President, Asian Society of Trichology

Winning the Battle Against Permanent Hairloss and Early-balding

For men, hair is universally seen as a symbol of youth, virility, strength and sex appeal. That's why, when you start experiencing hairloss, you become highly distressed and upset. You feel defeated. Hairloss hairloss leaves you in a no-win, no-escape situation. MICHAEL BERNSTEIN – Trichologist (hair and scalp expert) to many leading Hollywood celebrities, rock idols and international famous lawyers - gives you expert pointers on how you can win your battle against baldness.

Understanding male pattern baldness.

Male pattern baldness or Male Pattern Alopecia (MPA) is the most common type of hairloss, which affects the majority of males between the ages 15 and over their 70s. You must realize that it's not an illness, disease or life-threatening, and it's perfectly normal for you to experience it. The main reason why you develop male pattern baldness is your high level of testosterone. These hormones, when interacted with a testosterone, make your hair follicles shrink and unable to replace lost hair. First, you develop a receding hairline, then gradually the hair on top of your head also begins to thin out.

"It is not testosterone on its own, which is the culprit but an interaction with an enzyme called 5-alpha reductase resulting in a powerful androgen called dihydrotestosterone (DHT). DHT binds to the genetic receptors within the follicle and causes the miniaturization of the follicle by reducing the anagen (growth period) of the hair cycle. This can be further exacerbated by stress, illness, drugs, smoking and of course by hereditary issues," explains Bernstein.

You don't have to go through your hairloss battle alone.

Seek professional help from a Trichologist. A Trichologist assesses your hair condition in depth and then ultimately recommends the appropriate treatments for your problem. He also understands that hairloss is a major problem in your life and significantly impacts your self-esteem, style and general well-being so he provides encouragement with a positive prognosis and helps you feel more confident about your appearance. Treatments advised by a Trichologist are very beneficial in ensuring the correct environment for your scalp to promote healthy hair growth.

"The uniqueness of our profession is that I sincerely believe we are more educated in the field of hair and scalp than the majority of both doctors in dermatology; I remember that many of my friends and associates in the medical profession readily acknowledge.", says Bernstein.

Need early or progressive balding with preventative care.

Every man is capable of winning his hairloss battle. By acting fast in the onset of hairloss and with proper trichological treatments, you can prevent yourself from going bald too soon. Preventative trichological treatments are non-invasive, painless and involve a new technique of applying an anti-hairloss elixir that curbs DHT, stimulates blood circulation and helps cells regenerate faster. Your hairloss reduced. Your hair and scalp effectively and healthily revitalized.

"With males, the best form of treatment is to be proactive and use preventative care. While the same as preventative dandruff care but specialized to people dancing' hairloss such, preventative care before you lose hair is the obvious solution." Bernstein advises.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of May 31, 2012

Globe to issue ₱10B in bonds to boost capital

Proceeds to be used to fund expansion programs

By Paolo G. Montecillo

(UPDATED) Globe Telecom is issuing ₱10 billion worth of bonds to fund its expansion this year.

Globe's ₱4.5 billion in five-year and ₱5.5 billion in seven-year bonds will be listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"We look forward to listing our latest retail bond issue with PDEx. This will allow our investors to enjoy increased liquidity and transparency as they are able to see the market prices," Globe chief financial officer Alberto de Larrazabal said.

He said the company would use the proceeds from the bond sale to help fund the ongoing network modernization and IT transformation programs, as well as other banking needs for the year.

The five and seven year bonds have coupon rates of 5.75 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

Globe's bond offer received a "stat" grade from local debt watchers Philippine Rating Services Corp. (PhilRatings), "representing the highest rating available with the smallest degree of investment risk."

Globe ended the first quarter of 2012 with what the company described as manageable levels of debt.

At the end of March, Globe had a gross debt to equity ratio of 1.03:1 and a gross to ebitda leverage before income tax, depreciation and amortization of 1.48:1.

Both ratios were well within the companies maximum covenants of 2:1 and 3:1, respectively.

Globe's net income fell 16 percent to ₱2.7 billion in the first quarter of 2012 as the company ramped up investments in its network and intensified marketing efforts amid stiff competition.

Globe said service revenue rose by 5 percent year-on-year to ₱29.2 billion in the first quarter.

Its mobile revenue rose by 6 percent year-on-year from ₱15.4 billion to about ₱16.6 billion in January to March this year despite intense competition and continued price pressures.

Broadband revenue was also up 15 percent year-on-year from ₱1.2 billion to ₱1.4 billion in the first quarter.

In services sector

From page B4

president and CEO Jaime C. Herrera did said.

BSSP senior executive director Gillian Wicks said many are unaware that IT-BPO spans more than 20 different functional and vertical segments. Last year, the sector employed more than 640,000 Filipinos, and generated revenues worth $11 billion.

"New graduates and established professionals don't have to go abroad for international, well-paying jobs," Wicks said." Our objective is to increase visibility of the industry here and the opportunities it offers, so that Filipinos will know how to find those great jobs."

PSEi up on positive news

From page B1

as economic growth numbers, which beat expectations at most market watchers.

"The GDP data was very encouraging... I really believe del Castillo of First Grade Holdings. "The news was more than enough to spur buying."

At the end of the trading session, over 2 billion shares changed hands, representing a total value of ₱14.5 billion.

All sectoral indices registered advances, except for the property sector, which declined slightly by 7.2 points or 0.39 percent.

The services sector recorded the biggest gains with its index rising by 41.74 points or 2.04 percent, followed by the financial sector which rose 23 points, or 1.87 percent.

A total of 83 stocks advanced yesterday against 86 decliners, while 33 stocks remained unchanged. Dennis J. Lacsa

Impeachment

From page B4

transparency and accountability fund allocation and an issue is his position.

Another area is the Bureau of Customs (BOC) automatic examination of the Internal Revenue Monitor (IRM) on the list.

The system was so effective in catching smugglers that it was dismantled soon after its creation.

The IRM identifies the imported product, volume, source, vessel, and date of arrival two days before the shipment comes in. Only BOC knows this. Our reporting DA and the Bureau of Immigration and accountability. This is the main reason why smuggling is rampant.

A unanimously approved recommendation to restore this system was made by the Agriculture Fisheries 2013 (AF 2020) Conference on Feb. 11, 2011. BOC Commissioner Ruffin Biazon ordered this restoration only last May 7, 2012, but no action has since been taken.

Since the impeachment has unrolled a new desire for transparency and accountability, investors should note the unredressed anomalies. Sincerity is good, but results are better. We need DA and BOC to formulate and implement self-monitoring and self-correcting measures/systems to prevent/abs.

Next steps

The farmers are happy with the efforts to fight corruption. But they are unhappy with the rampant smuggling and slow implementation of the Secretary's directives, which can be due to some obstructionist bureaucrats' personnel.

The recent impeachment should spur action to create and implement anticorruption reforms that will ensure transparency and accountability.

Last May 28, Angelico Vilorio wrote: "The hogs running to the trough made many feel sad on Dec. 22, 2011 is over. What to do next here? To a better Philippines and to more transparent individuals to public service of Hope & Change." Mabuhay Philippines! Bayan ko."

The Filipino farmers are eyeing hope so.

(The author is chair of Agrewatch. For queries and suggestions, email: agri.watch.phil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522128)

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BUSINESS

Impeachment: Hope for the farmers

Power Situation Outlook for Friday, 01 June 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	8,580	1,806	1,174
System Peak (MW)	7,886	1,419	1,215
Reserve Margin (MW)	414	427	-41

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

IRIGA, Pilipinas, the former court interpreter who lost her job because she did not declare in her Statement of Assets Liabilities and Net Worth that she owned a market stall, was asked what lessons could be drawn from the impeachment of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

She replied: "If we wishes to work in government, he or she should be honest in all times."

While honesty is indeed important, farmers need more.

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, in his speech explaining his impeachment vote, said: "The court action, being far-reaching and precedent-setting, is actually rebuilding a new paradigm of transparency and accountability in public office."

Systems needed

While this new governance paradigm emerging from the impeachment, we now ask the Department of Agriculture (DA) to fix Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala for more transparency and accountability.

Identifying and penalizing wrongdoing is good. But what would be better for farmers and fisher folk is a management system that will automatically catch this wrongdoing.

A system is more consistent, efficient, and reliable than people's good intentions. This is applicable not only for catching wrongdoing, but also for delivering effective public services.

COMMENTARY

Systems are also more sustainable. When good people leave, good governance will still prevail because the systems are in place to ensure it.

DA application

Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano has instituted a good system for agricultural negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

He regularly convenes a task force, which includes private sector leaders, to formulate and help implement the Philippine negotiating position. The results are indeed commendable.

But other DA areas lack such a system.

Despite the Aquino Agriculture resolution for private sector participation in DA budget formulation and monitoring, that was approved by the National Agriculture and Fisheries Council (NAFC) last year, a paper trail proves that this has not been done.

In this case, there was no dishonesty. But since there is also no system of

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GLOBE BUSINESS ACES ANNUAL PARTNERS' GOLF TOURNEY

Globe Business

Globe Business Enterprise Segments successfully concluded its 5th Annual Partners' Golf Tournament held last April 27, 2012 at the Orchard Golf & Country Club, Dasmariñas. Hosted by its global and local service providers, technology alliances and channel partners, the yearly event was designed to strengthen relationships with valued partners.

On hand to cheer the golfers on were Globe Business Head Jesus C. Romero and Globe Business Enterprise Segments Head Louie Castillo. "It's a matter of who's on our partners side for Globe Business. Our way of thanking all of them for their significant role in growing the business," said Mr. Romero. Relaxation and camaraderie was also sought by Mr. Castillo, who added, "We designed the tournament as a format to encourage the golfers to plan and manage their play efficiently, so as to improve their score. We are pleased to know that our partners made new friends today, and everyone enjoyed the game."

The players were divided into two divisions and trophies and gift certificates were awarded to all winners. Rafael Alon of Hewlett-Packard Philippines, Quiel Delgado of Ramon Business, and Boyz Felipe and Paul Pilar of Cyclinc topped division 1. While division 2 champs were Robert Alon of DTS, Brian Salvador of Telecentersystems, Francis Mendoza of Cisilink, and Rolfson Pangyarong of Cisconet.

Adding excitement to the game were cool raffle prizes such as Fairwin GPS devices, Ping golf bags, Nike golf clubs, and Blackberry handsets that were given away to all participants at the end of the tournament.

BUSINESS

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Prepare for 3rd wave of motorization in Asean, gov't urged

PH seen to benefit from this round

By Amy R. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT was urged to start laying down critical measures to prepare the local automotive industry for what Toyota Motor Philippines called the "third wave of high-motorization in the region" by 2015.

In a statement, TMP president Hidetoshi Sugata said the company's outlook for next year was anchored on an outlook that pointed to 2012 as a "turning point for the Philippine automotive industry, with the full recovery from the repair-and-Thailand crisis expected to happen this year."

"We are confident that the Philippines will experience motorization beginning 2013," he added.

Motorization refers to increased demand for mobility that is expected to point the way for the rise in motor vehicle ownership.

The first and second waves of motorization were captured by Thailand and Indonesia in the previous years, following the recovery from the 1997 Asian financial crisis, Sugata said.

With the expected surge in vehicle demand in the local market, Sugata stressed the crucial role that the government would have to play in the incorporation of the automotive industry.

"The Philippine government should organize and explicitly mandate its policy direction for responsive manufacturing. It also has to implement timely supplement intervention measures that will improve the cost competitiveness of local suppliers," he said.

Sugata stressed these points during a meeting earlier between Toyota Group suppliers and Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) officers led by Director General Lilia De Lima.

The PEZA chief, according to the statement, affirmed her support for the local automotive industry.

"Rest assured that we will always endeavor to provide a conducive business environment to make the Philippines more competitive on a global scale," she said.

Firms asked to revisit smaller oil, gas fields

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is urging exploration companies to look into oil and gas fields deemed to have "marginal" resources, as the continued rise in oil prices and technological advancements may make such projects economically viable.

Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. said that now might be the best time for oil and gas firms to revisit existing data on sites that were said to contain "uneconomic" amounts.

These resources, he said, could be harnessed and used to help ensure Philippine energy security.

The so-called "uneconomic resources," according to Bank Energy Corp. vice president Alfonso Mercado, may already become recoverable given significant changes in "commercial considerations and technological developments."

He said some of these "considerations" might have been considered "not mature for commercial development" earlier as exploration did not make good business sense back then. "But these may now be potentially recoverable."

Examples of such prospects are a number of sites off Palawan such as Blks. 20-2, West Linapacan A1a, Galoc 1B, Iloc Malig A-13, Abo-Abo-11, Dumaculo-11, Sampaguita-2, Galoc, Iroan and Bantac-1.

The DOE and the association of oil and gas exploration industry evaluated the resources in these sites as about 2 million barrels of oil.

The Galloc block, for instance, was previously abandoned by old service contract holders. Today, however, it is now being developed by a new group.

In the meantime, DOE said it was revitalizing the moratorium for non-administration filed by companies, where offers got rejected in a bidding held earlier under the Philippine Energy Contracting Round 4.

Amy R. Remo

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Smart connection, you can be sure that like you, your smartphone will become more than an extra.

"There is no other telco in the country that has the same wide network and reliability as that of Smart's network," said Lorenzana. "Now, you can truly get the most out of your phone so you can get the most out of your life," he said.

EastWest to issue P5B worth of long-term deposit notes

By Paolo G. Montecillo

EASTWEST BANKING Corp. has announced a plan to issue P5 billion in deposit certificates to bolster its asset base and prepare for an expansion in its loan portfolio.

In a disclosure on Thursday, the newly listed firm said its board had approved the issuance of long-term negotiable certificates of deposit (LTNCD) of up to P5 billion.

"We will disclose the terms of the issue as soon as we secure the corresponding regulatory approval," it said.

As of the end of the first quarter, EastWest Bank had an asset base of P88.6 billion, which was up 14 percent from a year ago level.

The bulging asset size expansion in the bank's ecosystem loan portfolio whose complete pool higher. This portfolio, which consists of credit cards, auto, personal loans and mortgages, posted a 25.7 percent growth in the period.

The company also sees dividend to businesses growing, albeit at a more modest pace of 6.6 percent, as the bank ordered its exposure to top-tier corporations—whose margins are lower—as it concentrated efforts on mid-sized enterprises.

As a result, the company grew its first quarter net profit by 6.0 percent year-on-year to P464 million, translating to a return on equity of 16.40 percent and return on asset of 2.08 percent—which were both higher than industry averages.

"What is important to us at this point is to build our revenue base. To do that, we will continue expanding our national footprint of branches and increase our coverage of the consumer and mid-sized corporate lending businesses and further improve customer service," said EastWest Bank president Antonio Moncada as said earlier.

Land Bank Q1 profit up by 13%

By Michelle V. Remo

STATE-OWNED Land Bank of the Philippines posted a 13-percent profit growth in the first quarter to P3.1 billion from P2.8 billion in the same period last year.

"The investment upswing trend in our profitability is principally the result of increased revenues from loans and investments," Land Bank President Gilda Pico said in a statement.

Pico said Land Bank's lending progress was boosted largely on the farm and fishery sectors. It also caters to micro, small and medium entrepreneurs in rural areas.

"The income results reflect the bank's international focus, aggressive marketing of credit facilities to priority sectors, and the improvements in its delivery channels and process efficiencies," Pico said.

The bank's total loan portfolio hit P245.5 billion as of the end of the first quarter, up by 2 percent from P241.1 billion in the same period last year.

Capt. FRANCISCO CABAL JOSÉ

(Philippine Navy, Retired)

31 December 1929 - 28 May 2012

Daddy has joined our Lord,
his parents ***FELICISIMO & ROSITA****, and his youngest son* ***RONALD FELIPE****.*

His loving wife **AURORA**, children **MARIA THERESA, CYNTHIA MARGARETTA, FRANCIS ALEXANDER & JASMIN, SUZANNE ELIZABETH & TAHMIR**, brothers and sisters **ADELINA & JOE, PAULINO & SALLY, BENITO & NORMA, JULIUS & BABY (†), BOY (†) & MARY, LARRY (†) & EVA, PEPITO & NARETHA, ARTURO (†) & LELALEE, PHILIP (†) & MONCHING, RUDY & ARLENE, BABY & OLIVER**, other relatives and friends, request for prayers for his eternal rest.

His remains lie at the Mortuary of the St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo. Masses are held daily at 7:30 pm.

Interment will be at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, on Sunday, 3 June 2012, after the 9:00 am mass at the St. Ignatius Cathedral.

"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me."
Psalm 116:7

Irineo Tengco Aragon

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 29, 2012 at the age of 98

His loving wife **ADELA**; children Elena & Antonio Navarro III, Angelito & Agnes and Estella; grandchildren Angelito Jr. (Bruce), Anna Karissa, Irene, Antonio IV, Paula and his relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 134 Don Antonio Heras Cluss Circle, Pacific Village, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Mass will be offered at 2:30 p.m. on June 3, 2012, Sunday at Pacific Village Chapel, Pacific Village, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will follow after the Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Lorna Costales-Dagdagan

Nurse, UP-PGH Class of 1964
Former HR Specialist, AVON Products Manufacturing, Inc.
Director, Greenline Animal Health and Nutrition, Inc.,

peacefully joined our Lord
on May 30, 2012 at the age of 69.

Her bereaved family: husband **Napoleon M. Dagdagan**; children **Rommel, Arnold & Jane Raya, Ethel & Benito Santos, Eleanor & Ramil Bedrya, Nap Jr. & Lourielet Espinosa**; grandchildren **Joren, Ian, Denzel, Ethan, Ivy Mei, Selena, Kyle, Fire, Jacob and Jericho**; siblings **Edith (†), Zenaida, Bebita and Cecilia Costales**, relatives and friends request the prayer readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 2/F Chapel 8 at the **Loyola Memorial Chapels and Crematory, Commonwealth Ave., Tandang Sora, QC.**

Cremation will be on Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 9:00 am.

In Loving Memory
on the Eighth Death Anniversary of
TERESA L. DIAZ
June 13, 1931 – June 1, 2004

"We miss you and we cherish your memories"

Letty, family and friends

Special Masses will be held in La Pilar and Canada.

Wherever birds in the air will love it,
and wherever leaves his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

ATTY. ROBERTO B. AVID

Peacefully joined the Lord
on May 27, 2012 at the age of 62

His remains lie in state at
St. Peter Chapels,
Commonwealth, Quezon City.

NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS
The Philippine Star Group's Classified Section

More Classifieds on pages...

MANDAWALI INC. (a) A19
MANDAWALI INC. (b) A19
MBMA (a) A19
MBMA (b) A19
Barangay 8 Dev. Corp. A19
DOLE (AGD) A19
DOLE Region IV-A A19
MBC Van Migration A19
MC I Events B1

CLASSIFIEDS

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO SUBMIT BID/S TO LEASE

The Pag-IBIG Fund, otherwise known as HDMF, is inviting bids to lease by way of Individual Sealed Bids, real property (land) for commercial use with various sizes located at Manila Harbour Center, City of Manila.

The Terms of Reference and bid Proposal Forms can be secured, free of charge, from the Investment Department, 33rd Floor, Pedro Mega Plaza Building, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, starting May 25, 2012.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on June 08, 2012. The schedule of the submission and opening of bids shall be announced during the said conference.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids or accept such proposals as may be considered advantageous. Further, the Pag-IBIG Fund assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a proponent for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of its bids.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Jose Rommel S. Reyes at 845-41-00 or visit Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate website at **http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph** or email us at jsreyes@pagibigfund.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **EMMA LINDA B. FARIA**
DCEO, Support Services Cluster

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **MYNTRON, INC.** with office address at Lot 9 Block 15 Phase 3 Cavite Economic Zone Gahanlly, Rosario, Cavite is applying for Decrease in Authorized Capital Stock with Philippine Security and Exchange Commission.

Any person or entity with valid objections on the above mentioned application may file his/her objection in writing and/or with the SEC within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **Michelle Cotigan**
Board Secretary

FOR SALE
2 UNITS BACKHOE

CUBAO
HOUSE AND LOT
DEVELOPMENT

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF LOSS

Investor's Cocktail Night

FOR SALE
2 UNITS BACKHOE

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE
WANTED TO BUY
HOUSEHOLD
CONDO/TOWNHOUSE
WANTED TO BUY
LOST AND FOUND
TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT
CAR LOAN
CAR LOAN
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ROLEX
LUXURY WATCHES

Republic of the Philippines
BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested general building contractors with current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) clearance to bid for the project described below:

Name of Project/Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
Lot 1-1-A: Provisioning of soil materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and related services for the Rehabilitation of Old Perimeter Wall/Fence (Old CCM) on the BCDA Security Main Complex and ESP Tower, at Fort Bonifacio and Capas, Tarlac.	P 10,000,000.00

Completion Time: One hundred fifty (150) calendar days commencing from the date indicated in the Notice to Proceed

Pre-bid Conference and Registration: Bidders should have a valid PCAB License for "Building and Industrial Plant" project/work with unused "Medium" or "Large" range.

Ownership: Bidding shall be restricted to sole proprietorships, partnerships or organizations/associations with at least 75% interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Instructions to Prospective Bidders: Bidders should have completed within the last five (5) years before the submission and receipt of bids a contract/contracts consisting of bids of at least two (2) projects each involving rehabilitation / renovation and/or construction of a building or a fireproof structure/s of buildings similar in nature, which should not be less than P10,000,000.00.

In case of a joint venture, submission of a valid joint venture agreement including the required PCAB documents and authority is required. The joint venture must have been established and existing at least 12 months prior to the submission of bids, otherwise only if which costs should not be less than P5,000,000.

Contractor's Project Manager and Other Trade Key Personnel: The contractor's Project Manager (PM) must be a Registered Civil Engineer, the Architectural Trade Key Personnel must be a Registered Architect or Registered Master in Architecture and Engineering Trade Key Personnel must be a Registered Mechanical Engineer (ME). The PM, EE and ME should have worked as PCAB-accredited contractor's Project Manager/Trade Key Personnel for similar projects for at least two (2) projects each involving rehabilitation / renovation and/or construction of buildings with at least P5,000,000.00. The contractor shall also commence Safety Week accredited by DOLE.

The eligibility criteria for bidding as well as the Preliminary Examination criteria shall also be laid out in the bidding documents. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid is limited to the lowest bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be provided by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting on June 4, 2012 Bidding Documents shall be issued from 8:00 AM to 12:00 NN only Procurement Office Ground Floor, 2nd Floor, Two Bonifacio Building, 5th Avenue corner 23rd Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila Tel. No. 8575-1700 loc. 1700/1705
2. Joint Site Inspection	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM June 6, 2012 (Wednesday)
3. Pre-bid Conference	10:00 AM to 11:00 AM June 7, 2012 (Thursday) BCDA Corporate Center, 2nd Floor, Two Bonifacio Bldg., 5th Ave. corner 23rd Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila
4. Opening of Bids	10:00 AM to 11:00 AM June 21, 2012 (Thursday) BCDA Corporate Center, 2nd Floor, Two Bonifacio Bldg., 5th Ave. corner 23rd Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila
5. Bid Evaluation	Three days up to completion after the pre-bid conference
6. Post-qualification	Within 72 hours from the opening of bids
7. Notice of Award	Within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the Post-qualification

Bidders are required to submit the original of their bid security and its photocopy (1 set), before the scheduled joint site inspection or the Bid Deadline.

The attendance to pre-bid conference should be duly confirmed by the company representative by submitting the prescribed form.

Bid Security Requirements (Issuance - The ITB and Checklist of Requirements in its Bidders' Kits) the Bidder shall submit the earnest of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the BSP website (www.bsp.gov.ph). The complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested contractors from the address stated above upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P 10,000.00.

Only bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents shall be allowed to take part in bid-in/written queries or clarifications during the Pre-Bid Conference.

The BCDA reserves its unequivocal rights whatsoever to accept or reject any or all bids for any requirement incurred in the preparation to the bid.

The BAC reserves the right to waive any bid not to declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, if it is in the best interest of the government to do so. Any bid, unless withdrawn, shall remain valid and binding for a period not exceeding one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of the opening of bids. Furthermore, the BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bid(s) or to formally and to accept the proposal most advantageous to the agency.

(Sgd.) **ARNOLD G. GUERRERO**
Chairman

(BSD – June 1, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – Eastern Visayas
Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte

INVITATION TO BID
IB 2012-01

1. The Department of Health-Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD)-Eastern Visayas, through the fifth and sixth Locally-Funded Project (LFP) Implementation and Monitoring Committee (LFPIMC) invites bids for the following projects:

Name of Project	Rehabilitation Palo Emergency Hospital (Multi-Purpose Building, Mortuary Building, Extension and Improvement of Septic Vault and Drainage System) (5th and 6th Batch Projects)
Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC)	P 4,000,000.00

Project Sites	ABC PER PROJECT	Duration (Calendar Days)
1. DOH Regional Hospital Eastern Samar	800,000.00	90
2. DOH Can-Avid Community Eastern Samar	800,000.00	90
3. MHO Hilongos, Calubgang City	1,400,000.00	120
4. MHO Tacloban City, Calubgang City	1,400,000.00	120
5. MHO Tacloban, Calubgang City	1,314,000.00	120

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years from the date of submission of bids and a minimum 50% of the ABC. All bidders should be registered and classified to bid for the projects being offered. Contractors must be registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and must submit their PCAB License and Certificate of Registration and Membership.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

4. Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand (P 5,000.00) pesos. Bidding documents may also be downloaded from the website of the Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Department of Health, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

5. The contract shall be awarded to the lowest calculated and responsive bid.

6. The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
Issuance of Bid Documents	June 1 – 30, 2012 until 3:00 pm only at DOH-RO-SAC Office (Administration Center, Palo, Leyte
Pre-bid Conference	June 6, 2012 at 10:30AM DOH-RO Conference Room, Government Center, Palo, Leyte
Submission of Bids	June 20, 2012 at 9:30AM DOH-RO Conference Room, Government Center, Palo, Leyte
Opening of Bids	June 20, 2012 at 10:00AM DOH-RO Conference Room, Government Center, Palo, Leyte

7. The Pre-bid Conference shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the bidding documents. **Only bidders who have purchased the bidding documents are allowed to submit and ask questions.**

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who chooses to attend at the address above. Late bids shall not be accepted.

9. The DOH-CHD-Eastern Visayas reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare a failure of bidding or the nonattendance to the prospective contractors have been withheld or refused through no fault of the procuring entity, or to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

BAC Secretariat
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – Eastern Visayas
Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte
Tel. No. (053) 323-4208 / 323-4209
Telefax No. 1570-8017

(Sgd.) **MERCEDES F. BOCCALING, MD, MPH, CESO III**
Director III
BAC Chairperson

(DOH – June 01, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF HILONGOS
COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

INVITATION TO BID
For the SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS

1. The LGU – Hilongos now invites sealed bids for the sale of the following unserviceable units owned by the Municipality of Hilongos Leyte:

		Estimated Value
a.	5 Wheeler Dump Truck - 09052 Chassis No.: 170944 Engine No.: 5DK66901 1998 - Isuzu	2,000 Value
b.	5 Wheeler Dump Truck Chassis No.: 51665 Engine No.: DA 65400 TI 1998 - Isuzu	500 Value
c.	5 Wheeler Dump Truck Chassis No.: 170944 Engine No.: 5DK66901 1998 - Isuzu	2,000 Value
d.	Payloader Chassis No.: Engine No.: D4M0510021 JD Komatsu	1,000 Value
e.	Mini - Payloader	500 Value
f.	Mini - Dump Truck Engine No.:	500 Value
g.	Bulldozer's Truck Unit (Mini - Komatsu)	2,000 Value
h.	BASOL Engine No.: 04304 Chassis No.: BF 547-8698	400 Value

2. Viewing and on the aforementioned items is set at Tinalon Pasay (P.O.D) per day. The interested bidders on the basis of the estimated total of the unserviceable vehicles by the bidders during the pre-bid conference. Representative will pay by bid, post Government Unit on the basis of the actual weight of the units indicated by the winning bidders bid price per kilo.

3. Bidding will be conducted through public bidding. Public bidding is through sealed bidding.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from LGU – Hilongos and inspect the units owned by the municipality during office hours at the premises of the Municipal Hall Building Hilongos Leyte.

5. Bids must be delivered to the office of the Municipal Mayor at the address below not later than above on June 22, 2012 at 1:00 o'clock (1:00 PM) in the afternoon at 3rd Floorplan Room, Municipal Hall Building, Hilongos, Leyte. Bidders or their authorized representative may attend during the scheduled opening of bids and other proceedings.

6. Late bids shall not be accepted.

7. The LGU – Hilongos reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

8. No bid bond or offers (bid) be accompanied by bidder's bank draft or cashier's check, or an amount equivalent to two percent (2%) of the bid, in case of unjustifiable refusal or failure of the winning bidder to accept the award within seven (7) days from the receipt of the official notice of the award, the Bidder's bond posted shall be forfeited in favor of the local government.

9. A bidder may be allowed to withdraw his tender or offer before the opening of the bids. His bid deposit or guarantee is not required.

The invitation to Bid is issued this 30th day of May 2012 at Hilongos, Leyte, Philippines.

(Sgd.) **LAIDE ROBERTO BUBAS**
Chairman
Committee on Awards

(BAC – June 01, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
National Capital Region
DOLE NCR Building, 901 Rodriguez St.,
Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits.

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National Applicant/ Citizenship	Position
NAPMAN ENTERPRISES, INC. U3304-A West Tower PSEC Exchange Road, San Antonio, Pasig City	Yuk Jan Wong Malaysian	General Manager
IEI TRAVEL LANGUAGE CENTER INC. Unit 5803, 58/F Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Murugesh Jeng Kumar	Senior Consultant
MARUBENI PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 19/F Chatal Square, 6788 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Masahiro Japanese	Consultant for Japanese Sales
INFOTECHNOLOGY FORMATION Rm 2202-B, 22/F Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, 2 Ortigas Ave. Mandaluyong City	Nguyen Thi Vietnamese	Research Specialist
KOEX SYSTEM INTERNATIONAL CORP. UP Knowledge Park, Ceboy Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City	Maninah Lee Korean	Operation Manager
OK RICHE OPTICAL CORPORATION 2/F Diamond Arcade, Aurora Blvd., cor. Gilmore, Cubao, Quezon City	Sojeon Kim Korean	Marketing Manager
HAIR TUK SALON INC. UP Ayala Bldg., Ortiz Spirit Drive cor. Benjamin S. Ortiz Spirit, C. Quezon City	Bo Yong Yun Korean	Operation Manager Philippines
MAGIC SKY PLAZA, INC. 2/F Citimax Square, 6788 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hideo Shindo Japanese	President
SEOUL AGRIBUSINESS KOREA CORPORATION CO. LTD. Rm. 2-E Sungyoon-ji Avenue, Bagumbayan, 53 Quezon City	Kwang Hee Kim Korean	Chief
SEA FINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. G-7/F Pl. Magsaysay Center, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. 668, Ermita 667, Manila, Manila	Moohead Choo Korean	Director for Marketing
SEA FINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. G-7/F Pl. Magsaysay Center, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. 668, Ermita 667, Manila, Manila	Sang Cheol Kyu Korean	Director for Marketing
SEA FINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. G-7/F Pl. Magsaysay Center, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. 668, Ermita 667, Manila, Manila	Sangyeop Ro Korean	Director for Marketing
SEA FINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. G-7/F Pl. Magsaysay Center, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. 668, Ermita 667, Manila, Manila	Jaeyoghan Yun Korean	Director for Marketing
MARKSTYL, INC. Unit 701 Rufino Centre, 172 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Rajulal Jayantilal Bavishkar	Model
MARKSTYL, INC. Unit 701 Rufino Centre, 172 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Jaidave Bhaskar Morares Mahi Bavishkar	Model
MARKSTYL, INC. Unit 701 Rufino Centre, 172 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Alexis Bavishkar Ineda	Model
MARKSTYL, INC. Unit 701 Rufino Centre, 172 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Pedro Hernandez Mahajan Bavishkar	Model
MAGIC CLOUD MANAGEMENT INC. Unit NO.03 8th, Newport Blvd., Newport, Pasay City	Guangzhao Yu Chinese	Business Development Executive
HEXION GROUP PHILIPPINES, INC. 10/F Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan	Nandakeda Lakshmi Indian	Finance Controller for Oceania EPP (Managing Consultant Level 4)
JOHNSON & JOHNSON (PHILIPPINES), INC. Bukan Road, Bonifacio Bayan, Pasig City	Jason Alan Carroll Rushallan	Generic Manager, Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies
ISC PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit Prime 5F, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Seiji Matsuda Japanese	Flying Superman
MONA SAJWANI TRADING CORP. No. 48 Perdana St., Sangandaan, Quezon City	Ralph Singh Indian	Collector
TOYO INK (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION Penthouse Phil Piatra Corporate Center, 60 G Triangle Drive, North Fairbanks Global City, Taguig City	Ludovic Claude Georges French	Vice President for Operations
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 11/F Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Wu Yuan Chinese	Outsourcing Manager
DIGITAL SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD. 120/F Huamanjin Tower 80(B), Pasig, 8855 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jin Zhe Chinese	Mandarin Speaking Customer Support Officer
GOMA SAJWANI TRADING CORP. No. 48 Perdana St., Sangandaan, Quezon City	Rajendar Ram Jalal Indian	Marketing Assistant
NORDAM AIRCRAFT CO., INC. Unit L-R, Plaza Drive, No. 124 corner D. Salcedo Village, Makati City	Kwang Soo Lee Korean	Sales Administrator/ Commissioning Manager
MCL TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 16/F Net Cube Center, 3rd Ave. cor. 30th St., E-Square Crescent Park, Bonifacio Global City	Ramakrishnan Rajendran Indian	Senior Project Manager
INTEGRUM BPO SOLUTIONS INC. 15/F One Cyberpod 5/TCP, Eastra Bldg., C-5th cor. Eastwood Ave., Quezon City	Maria Fernandez Alvarado Costa Rican	Operations Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN S. MACARAEG, CESO III
Regional Director

(BN – June 1, 2012)

FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Please turn over
www.jobmarketonline.com

Focus on PH's creative drive

By Kaye Po
Contributor

THE PHILIPPINES has not had a serious branding effort until late last year when it launched a successful social media campaign, "It's More Fun in The Philippines."

Prior to that, its advertising had no focus.

It was by sheer luck that previous campaigns had found attention. As advertising with no focus and unilateral drive, resources most eventually dissipate and wrong perceptions remain.

The country's tourism advertising was treated more like a seasonal thing and short exhortations to people felt like doing is or one point, it had to tie up with a big advertiser just to keep it from sputtering.

Like a small cottage industry, it has not really taken off like many of its more aggressive neighbors who invested tourism not as a mere government cabinet social function but as a brand deserving better marketing and creative packaging.

Philippine tourism today seems to have taken on a serious tone. It's beginning to create ripples and waves and hoping that it takes on the force of a wave to answer most visitors' travel dreams.

By having an advertising expert as head of the tourism department and acquiring the services of an ad agency whose output is consistently impeccable, there's no reason why the world shouldn't focus its "Eye to the Philippines."

Will it work?

As of the first quarter of 2012, the country has surpassed pre-campaign targets and is poised to receive the historic 4.5 million tourist arrivals Budiarto's own goal more than a decade ago).

While it is a modest target, it is realistically possible, some observers say.

"The Philippines deserves much more and I would imagine why the world's third largest English-speaking country with one of the world's most hardworking people is not up there side by side with Malaysia and Thailand," says Eric Cruz, head of Creative of Leo Burnett Malaysia.

"The Philippines' main export is human power and talent. And if we look at some of the most memorable things in the history of the Web, the Filipino contributors dancing to Michael Jackson was one of the pioneers of online content," he says.

"The 'wow factor' was invented by a Filipino—clearly they tells me the Philippines has talent," Cruz adds.

While there are capable post-production houses in Manila, he says, "there's still a need to grow the talent and energy."

Cruz notes that the creative industry in the Philippines is picking up, having won prizes in Cha Cannes, Asia-Adfest, London.

"The government could learn from other global economies, with regards to how countries like Japan, South Korea, Singapore and now China are turning to the creative industries to reinvent its economies," he says.

Cruz took over the Malaysian advertising firm when Yasmin Ahmad, a Cha Cannes Advertising awardee, passed away.

Cruz has won the prestigious Tokyo Art Directors Club Award, a Cannes Gold Lion, One Show Gold and Silver, and The Japan Media Arts Festival Excellence prize.

He values real talent and features on some ads still scarcely those who perpetuate them.

Born in the Philippines, Cruz grew up in Cainta with his grandparents.

He must see an art director who just runs in a Elias TV commercial. Often was a product craft desk for kids that is no longer available.)

In 1993 he saw Bongbong Marcos in jail accustomed on TV. Three months later, his family migrated to the United States.

His parents, who owned a dry cleaning shop in Ohio, discouraged him from pursuing a career in the arts, but he figured, if he could do what he wanted, he would give it his best shot.

He ended up going to School of Visual Arts in New York.

He discovered graphic design and gravitated toward it because one could fuse the language of art, illustration and design. He did album covers and books, among other things.

Cruz then started his career in fine illustrations, working at Studio Archetype, owned by digital pioneer Clement Mok, who was also the founder of Front Page, a Web design program, which was later sold to Microsoft.

After a short stint with Wieden & Kennedy, Cruz started back to LA and joined Imaginary Forces.

There, he learned how to do motion graphics and make design move, as well as how Hollywood movie magic was done, shooting and producing TV commercials and music videos.

Cruz went to Hollywood to "do production stuff." It was during film runs that he dug up his roots, trying to find out why we are who we are and how we came to be.

On the Internet, he found out that Filipinos actually had their own form of alphabet called Baybayin or Baikhang, which the Spaniards made extinct.

Cruz created a modern version of the Filipino alphabet, what Malaya would look like if it were alive today. This exploration led him to create a body of work, a film and print piece, titled "Bahala Na," a portrait of the Philippines, which featured the Mangyans of Mindoro, one of the last two tribes that still use the ancient form of writing.

While backpacking in China, he met John Jay, Wieden & Kennedy (W&K) global executive creative director. He met. He rejoined W&K, where he made the most out of his career. He lived in London for 14 months.

Later, he was offered a job in Malaysia.

Cruz was recently in Manila to give creative ideas for work.

Last week marked the first time in the history of this newspaper's existence that the Philippine country commercially.

Over an interview, he says "I would love to see day return and touch other Hips what I know how to do, I want to give back one day. I would love to have more of an ongoing interaction with the ad industry in the Philippines. I do, so want to do some personal projects here sometime soon," he says.

His advice?

"Learn the craft and pump something original in the global boundless. The one will work itself out. People worldwide will find them who do something great. I'm a firm believer that re-creating efforts, soaking to be discovered," he says.

IMC Cruz

After Jessica, Samal's capiz products now in limelight

Text and photos by Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer General Luzon

SAMAL, Bataan—At this town named in strife down from the bloody brought about by the American-led Resolution of their fresh state, Jessica Sanchez, fatal capiz shells are helping them make the nation that capiz will be the "next big thing" and the banned lyrapalatine 23,000" as of 2007).

Estates says the creation of Samal's capiz products began when fisherman harvested crescent shells from the sea.

The outer shell of the marine mollusk, Placuna placenta, the text, it then discovered and proceeded to cut the pearl to bring shades, windows and ornaments.

Until, she knows as window-paper, capiz can be found and harvested abundantly in the waters of Samal. The town, local officials say, accounts to 1.5-hectare capiz (markets).

Joey de la Cruz, a member of the Balimaong Livelihood Association, says nothing is wasted out of the harvest because they use the meat to make kropek (crackling).

"Our only problem is that if there's really no rain, we can't harvest. But the craftsmen can still use the outer shell to make their products," de la Cruz explains.

Agnes Abalos, ELA chair, says that the group hopes to make capiz a major source of livelihood for residents in the town.

"If every member of the organization gets involved, the benefits increase for all of us. We're promoting capiz shell and not to be used for decoration purposes only," Abalos said.

Abalos says Samal's One Town One Product program is focused on making capiz products known.

"You can see it everywhere in the town," she says, noting that the town hall's furnishings are made of capiz.

"Every little decorative element in our town hall is made of capiz."

Mayor Ernesterio dela Pazano says the quality of Samal's capiz products is acceptable to the export market.

"Capiz is one of our commodities. Every other year, we harvest about 300 tons of Capiz, which are then made into various products. We want to envision this [value] of being the primary capiz in mainland now. For the concept. We want our capiz products to be as well known as Jessica [Sanchez]," dela Pazano says.

SEASHELL capiz products are shown to the town place in Samal, Bataan.

At the moment, we're also starting the most processing of various shells (ish).

In 2005, the local government named residents to nurture the industry, says Baldwin Suarez, a craftsman specializing in capiz products.

"There were about 10 artisans, but I was the only one left. Now, even if I am 76, I can still continue this. I do not have enough capital, but I can produce a modest volume for export," Suarez says.

Estates works alone, but may hire extra workers if there are big orders. He also issues local craftsmen to ensure that the industry will flourish.

Estates says several clients—from homeowners to firms turning restaurants and hotels—come to him to source their capiz products.

Capiz products's price ranges from P400 to P1,200, which the Department of Trade and Industry has set as base prices.

"But the price can go higher based on the design and other requirements of the customer," Suarez says.

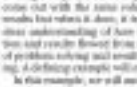
'Which business growing idea will work for a provincial hotel?'

Q: WE'RE a group of graduating marketing students this coming school year. We've started talking with northern Luzon's university during summer make-up classes. For our summer course's marketing project, our professor has assigned us to apply to one of the hotels in our province your notes on business growing. He has permitted us to write to, and ask some questions. But please do not identify us in your answer.

We noticed that in the midst, every time a new business is involved you offer a different business growing model. Almost always, our guest chose the applicable model from wrong. Then we the case with the car dealership, the advertising agency and the LRT and MRT food stalls.

So what about our assignment, a provincial hotel? Please give us some tips about how we should go about identifying the correct business growing model to apply. Will you let us know the template to use for this purpose?

A: All along, we've avoided referring to this popular but dangerous discipline about cut called "template." So we'll start with an important distinction. The template is the same as cookie-cutter, many marketing practitioners have gotten used to a "fix solution and results driven" template. It's the kind of template that leads you not



Dr. Ariel Roberts
& Andy Roberts

given you a clear road to the answer. In other words, it's the "answer template."

But the more insight-rich template is "The process-driven-and-solution-seeking" template. This template may come out with the same solution and results but when it does, it is with the clear understanding of how the solution and results flowed from a process of problem-solving and result-processing. A defining example will explain.

In this example, we will answer your questions as if your group is the marketing arm of this hotel. So here is the specific case of Jogo Hotel located along the main highway and fronting the city shopping mall in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Last March 2012, Dr. Jessie Milo-as stayed overnight there to conduct a 2-day in-house seminar with a different SME client. Here's the business growing number-generating process that came out of observing in-hotel and then post-seminar Jogo Hotel patterns.

Among actual existing Jogo hotel guests, there was first of all an untapped market segment of "family" hotel guests. The Jessie Milo-as own engineering couples often be arrested. On their own with their kids while the second had two. We say "an untapped market segment" because your hotel rooms were set-up for female guests. There is a pity because the family market segment can probably easily double your hotel's monthly revenues.

In why don't we experiment with, say, one evening each of the second or third floor rooms to cater this segment. Promoting to this market can be inexpensive video done via the hotel's website and using the social network of Facebook and/or Twitter.

There's also a second underlapped area of market segment we observed among hotel guests. The configuration of your hotel rooms and motel suites is three-point-regional targeted. There's an "economy," a "premium" and a "supersonic" segment. Jogo's marketing group, you see think of "healthy events" to cater to the "healthy-seeking" segment of the market" to promote with three-three customer price segments. The idea fit in particular the super-premium segment of all. Five executives of Jess Fernandez's business establishments. You can give our clientele cards to three target customer segments of their choice, may be events or occasions for celebrations.

On day two of his city, the Jessie Milo-as woke up early and decided to go out for breakfast across the street at the SM Mall. But there were no restaurants open except for fastfoods which opened at exactly 8:00 am. This prospective customer segment was observed.

The five of these were joggers. There were four of them who went to side Starbucks and ordered coffee and pies and sandwiches. This is an unserved market segment for your Jogo. The Jessie Milo-as were hungry after they got complaining about how "ill-sited" Liberty the highway has become for jogging. But behind Jogo's hotel building were long rows of mixed units opened as a track and field shaped third zone. The concerned personnel along the circumference of the track can offer joggers a quiet, "no-clutter-to-good" jogging ground. Then, they can get their after-jogging breakfast at your coffee shop. Promotion can be sit-or via your Jogo website, the social network and via e-mail marketing. This is a market segment that's an almost zero-base investment opportunity for business growing.

A second prospective customer segment is made up of office executives. During their breakfast period, the Jessie Milo-as saw four to five such executives eating outside Starbucks before 8:00 am. Where they could have been in the opening. These executives are an under-served customer segment for your hotel. You can promote your coffee shop with them again via your website and the social network. If you can tie-up with McCafe via this opportunity, you could be the source of delivering many of them away from Starbucks. As you know, McCafe has been successful in eating into the Starbucks market share by offering the same menu but at substantially lower prices.

A third prospective customer segment consists of graduating high school and college students. Jessie Milo-as, that same breakfast house, they are outside Starbucks in three clusters around Starbucks' iron-railed tables. One or two of them sent inside to order a cup of coffee but the group of four to five stayed. For valid food, they called on takeout "coffee" from a drive-through. This is a segment also for Jogo's coffee shop if it succeeds in tying up with McCafe so as having a McCafe-like place. The same inexpensive prices will work here, namely via your Jogo website and using social network especially Facebook and Twitter.

In this then, if you were to follow this process-driven business growing template, think of your hotel business as participating and progressively participating in different market segments around your neighborhood and workarea. Model your thinking process after the Jessie Milo-as' experience.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at marketingrx@yahoo.com or drmarketingrx@gmail.com. God bless!

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BEFORE AND AFTER. Latisse is available at Dr. Aires Aguilar-Tiu's clinic.

Now, a better alternative to lash extensions

Latisse is the first and only FDA-approved eyelash enhancement product

I LOVE to line my eyes and use mascara. The only problem is, my eyelashes are thin, scarce and short. I have tried using lash extensions, but I would never ever do that again. After only three days, I started trying to pull some out since they were going in different directions. When I finally decided to have it removed, the formula used to melt the adhesive stung my eyes! No more! I've sworn off it, and would not advise anyone to try it.

Since then, I've been very happy using my Dhc Extension curl lash and whatever mascara I feel like using.

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

Although I've been reading about Latisse and my friends have been egging me on to use it, I wavered to know their experience with it before I tried it out. The worst side effect so far, I've heard, are dark circles, though nothing that some concealer can't hide. My friends continue to use it.

According to my research, Latisse is the first and only FDA-approved eyelash-enhancement product—best for those who suffer from hypotrichosis or those with very few lashes.

The active ingredient in Latisse is bimatoprost, which is also used in treating glaucoma and managing ocular pressure. Latisse is to be applied once a day and, in eight weeks, a noticeable difference will reportedly happen. (Dr. Aires Aguilar-Tiu's clinic offers it... at ₱5,000, ₱10,000.)

I'm on my third day of using it, and I can't wait to have long lashes to curl. I am already anticipating not having to use mascara during the day. My friends say their new long lashes make them feel "sexy". I was sold to the idea after that. After all, anything that will make you feel sexy without having to break sweat is a must for me.

Having bright eyes is not only beautiful, it also gives the appearance of youth. Aside from curling your lashes, there are other fast and easy ways to accentuate your eyes. One product that can be used in a lot of ways is a highlighter. I don't always use highlighter on my cheekbones, but you will seldom see me without it on the inner corner of my eyes.

I use a Q-tip and dab a highlighter on the inner corner of my eyelids. You'll be amazed at the difference this makes. Instantly, your eyes open up. If you don't have a highlighter, a pearl or champagne eye shadow will work.

A lot moisturizer

My skin has been taking a beating in this heat and my moisturizer just can't cut it. Luckily, I recently discovered Chanel's new Hydra Beauty Collection. When it comes to beauty products, I like trying what's out there. It's a bit cool-munching, really, but this one's a hit!

The formula is lightweight, so my face doesn't feel sticky. It's also super hydrating, just what everyone needs right now. Chanel's Hydra Beauty promotes intense hydrating for more supple, moisturized skin. If you are in need of new moisturizer, this is the one to try out. Visit the counter and choose what suits your skin's needs best.

Chanel Hydra Beauty Serum has activated Hyaluronic Acid to immediately hydrate and protect the skin. Fresh and soothing, it comforts and boosts.

Chanel Hydra Beauty Crème, with added shea butter and canola oil derivatives, will quench the driest, thirstiest skin. Ideal for normal-to-dry skin.

Chanel Hydra Beauty Gel Crème is a light, fresh, cooling texture that hydrates skin in hydration for comfort, protection and increased radiance. Ideal for normal skin.

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HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU BOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepción Sudoku

6	2				1	8		
1		5			9			
	8		6					4
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Difficulty level: ●●●●

Answer to previous puzzle

3	7	4	2	8	6	1	5	9
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9	5	7	7	1	2	8	4	6

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Fail to keep up
5 Ebb
9 ___ concealment
13 Depth of field
14 Part of the motor
15 One keen cookie
16 Take advantage
17 Dial
18 Person
19 Resident of the state
20 Cheerful smile
21 Broken down
22 Wide flower
23 Wrestling holds
25 Inventor's discovery
28 Unfastened
29 Innocent one
30 Whiskey
31 Pleads
32 Wrote a note
33 Lose
34 Take aback
35 Ending for some names
36 Decisive moment
37 Leisure hour
38 Fragrance
39 Wheels
40 Crunchy cracker
41 Gloss
42 Quick drink
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4 Cartoon beings
5 Cure-all
6 Cutting tools
7 Number of notes
8 Entertainer's world
9 Hand cleaner
10 Blood vessel network
11 Actress Barbara
12 Wrinkle-free cotton
13 Wrinkle-free cotton
14 Wrinkle-free cotton
15 Party
16 Verbal roadblock
17 Major reward
18 Plant's growth
19 Public accountants
20 Round
21 Cheer
22 Mouth of Hades
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Then James Dean, now Justin Bieber—the men's pompadour is back

By Hazel Cabiyog
Core Buzz

PEELS THE DATE of powdered wigs are long gone, definitely the hairdo named after iconic the 50's movie actor minister, Jeanne-Antoinette Poisson, the Marquise de Pompadour, lives on.

It has undergone various permutations over the years, on both men and women. In the 1990s, it saw a major revival as part of the Gibson Girl look, and again in the '40s through to the '50s when it became associated with male celebrities such as Elvis Presley and James Dean.

For some time, the look was adopted by those who favored the vintage culture of the '50s and '60s. Today, present day interpretations of it are regaining popularity among men of various ages and lifestyles.

Former late-night talk show host Conan O'Brien is one of the most notable modern wearers of the pompadour, as is young music maverick Bruno Mars.

The fashion is essentially one where the bangs are left much longer than the sides and back to achieve a layered look that allows you to brush the top up and back. The short length of the sides (or is it on the top depends on what look you're going for.

JAMES Dean, Justin Bieber in variations of the trademark 'do

1. The first interpretation is one where the sides and back are cropped short or clipped close to the scalp, and the top hair is worn long for contrast. This version's look is a statement cut for those who want to project drama and character. I've done this look for Tim Yap.

2. The more yuppie-businessman interpretation is one best epitomized by Ryan Seacrest. The hair is fairly short on the sides without being too close to the scalp, then worn medium-length and brushed back neatly without too much volume.

3. Among the young, the look is spawned by the likes of Justin Bieber and Zac Efron, both of whom have worn the side-swept style. In this case, it's slightly longer on top than in the others, only more conservative "business session version"—not extremely short on the sides.

Right products

But today's stylish male is not the pompadour, there are better, easier products on the market. The choice would depend on the look one wants.

Hair Mess Up (Schwarzkopf) and Scotch-Fit Professional Clay Doh (Moulding Clay) provide a similar matte finish. The first yields the dry texture of hair—choppy and rough style, with lasting control. Only a small amount is required to style and create the textured look.

For firm hold and high shine, there's Wonder Wax by Dermes. It can take textures and can express, and works for all hair types.

Another interesting wax is Bed Head's Rock Wax, which has conditioning agents. It has a pliable finish that looks natural, and a slightly more semi-matte look without buildup.

Essentials Sculpting Mask by Schwarzkopf offers medium control and is ideal for lifting—perfect for exterior pompadour. The formula combines the essence of organic oils (we have and hops, which is good for conditioned styling and provides natural body and bounce). It has no artificial colorants and features silicones, silicones, PEGs, paraffin-mineral oils and parabens.

Hair products you can use to achieve that perfect lift

Healthy scalp

And, of course, aside from using styling products to create the style, it's important to keep the hair well-cleansed and the scalp healthy.

Also by Schwarzkopf, there's a product well-suited to scalps that are prone to oiliness: Sunsource Thirstaway Atmic Cell Refresh! is a pre-shampoo peeling that exfoliates and tones for a healthy, clean and balanced scalp. This is an intensive pre-shampoo treatment. It has a light gel consistency with peeling beads, and is applied on the scalp for two-three minutes, by brush, before shampooing and rinsed off.

Created specifically for men, Capitol Forte's Thin-Energizing Shampoo (Sunsource Hommes) stimulates and refreshes the scalp with Taurine and Ginseng. It has a fresh, minty scent, and is created to boost hair mass. It's also for daily use.

Spanning a man's restyled pompadour is about knowing what you feel most comfortable trying, and keeping your hair to the right shape.

Hilario is at the G/E Bio Bandera on Greenbelt, Makati City; tel. 7993388/7993-887; mobile 0920-5181880; e-mail hilario_salon@yahoo.com.

Leon Araneta—what drives his passion

LEON, THE CEBU integrating officer of Andoy and proud father to two daughters, has a keen eye for style. He exudes has a touch of interior and industrial designers who consult with the customer's brand in mind.

And if his list of happy clients is any proof enough, a peek at his own home shows the eclectic mix of vibrant and modern elements that drives his passion.

#EM.VEN team: Emmanuel Ramos, David Gutierrez, Emil Abiller, Leon Araneta, Abegail Castillo, Paolo Chavez

BACKSTAGE PASS

Isabel Rocas

Lots of online sources, Uncrate, Hub & Bandi, the special supplements of two national dailies Inquirer and Financial Times on lifestyle, real estate and design subscriber they pop up, foreign magazines—if any nice, where I discover great things.

My favourite mag: scans for men's fashion is...

aptly called Lotto, from Japan. It weighs a ton.

I'd go to great lengths for...

My Pearl Five studio upstairs. I'm so happy it's in the Philippines already. The last work-related pleasure I will give up is the ability to play the music I like, regardless of the hour and volume.

My most cherished design piece are...

A painting by Cesar Galileo; the products designed by Andoy designers; the chandelier that hung over my grandparents' dining table for 60 years; the lamp in my dad's bedroom when he was a young, fit, Out Adas Mendoza photo; A Bristo dance watercolor; and a two "Intramuros" by Matamoko I am refinancing, to name but a few.

I have a collection of...

GUAYABERA

Authentic working man guayaberas, straight from the source. They are fantastic for formal occasions, but equally practical on the beach: summer, cool for everyday wear. Easy to wash and dumble, they age so well. I've had them for 10 years.

My most cherished garment is...

Inspirations and things he can't live without

A '70s poly-blend shirt I bought in a second-hand store in San Francisco. It cost $2. I love it so much I want to be cremated in it. Bristol in Tall Shirt. It's complete. "No, I'm kidding—right B...huge collar. It's total vibe with Bluff and Streets of San Francisco. I really wish I could grow an afro and have sideburns that touched my lips. If I could, I would, believe me, even in this maddening heat.

I cannot live without...

Two long expressos off my Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf iced coffee machine. I let myself have all the coffee I desire up to and including lunchtime. I would give up red meat before giving up coffee. When we go on road trips, we bring the machine! I also enjoy knowing that a bottle of Chateau Beau-

Tap tip: Get a whiff of Lucas's perfume by dropping by Human's. When selecting a perfume, make sure to spray lightly on your skin to better gauge its scent. Strolling it through the paper tester may not deliver the same effect as your skin's heat and acidity changes its composition.

I'd collect for...

Skiing in Portillo, Chile. This is reason answer to the joy of skiing, and there's nothing better than to explore the rolling contours of South America at the same time.

I enjoy the scent of...

Chiffonade, a mental gift on my 40th birthday. John Varvatos for men also does it for me, but nothing beats the smell of freshly cut grass. If someone could bottle that, I'd use it.

Tap tip: Get a whiff of Lucas's perfume by dropping by Human's. When selecting a perfume, make sure to spray lightly on your skin to better gauge its scent. Strolling it through the paper tester may not deliver the same effect as your skin's heat and acidity changes its composition.

HOMESTYLE-GOOGHNESS Industrial design by Amador

MYTIQUE

AMATAU FER products — door made of cardboard pins from nonprint rolls, done by faculty Leon Araneta

DON'T turn your back on your skin

Treatments for sunspots, chicken skin

KEMPTLING SUN block SPF 50 religiously does not spare you from brown spots caused by sun damage. It just rearks off as much of the sun's damaging rays.

So if you want to erase brown spots and those that are just under the skin and waiting to raise, dermatologists offer her bright-raising properties to a tryst.

Lancome and Clinique's skin brightening range are two non-Aggressive or Korean brands that have been proposed me with their quick and noticeable whitening results.

Lancome's Blanc Expert Range is reasonably impressive for products; it has launched a new improved formula—the Crystal Brightness Activating Essence, which is designed to boost skin brightening power on the face and neck by clean-ing up intracellular damage using light under the face.

When used with the very potent activating Spot Eraser to target stubborn dark spots, the spots are broken down to smaller pieces, making them easier to eliminate. Use with the Miracle Blanc Miracle Compact SPF 35 powder foundation to keep skin looking fresh, smooth and sun-safe for up to 12 hours. The lightening process continues every time we touch.

Clinique Even Better SPF 15 foundation is also designed to be used above the Even Better Clinical Spot Corrector to boost skin's whitening power. It's great for normal to oily skin but may feel heavy for those with dry skin.

Smoothening effect

Kremenia Villaria, also known as chicken skin, is usually genetic and appears almost from infancy or childhood. Those that appear later in life are usually caused by hormonal fluctuations or through contact with certain chemicals such as varnish or gasoline.

Well, I faced a way to remove the unsightly bumps on the affected areas to my skin. My derma-tologist prescribed the highest dose glycolic acid peel, followed by a safe bodily scrub. In her clinic every week for at least five sessions, with laboratory cream Neostrata AHA 15 Lotion Plus applied at day on affected skin.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

The body hair that has not sprouted by your eight months due to blocked pore openings—the cause of unsightly chicken skin—is coming out. When you pull them out, they are very sticky and look rolled underneath. It's a shame that the Glycolic peel is so potent and requires doctor's supervision; hence, it is limited to the clinic and not affordable for personal use at home use. The enamel area was just an eight until, so the entire procedure took five minutes maximum.

The Neostrata AHA 15 is strong enough to peel the dead cells and remove that rumen blush-age. It's a great exfoliant as well for face, neck and hands, especially for those with very dull, damaged skin and want to speed up the effect of skin whitening procedures. Please apply SPF 30 or above on exposed area at least every two hours, if the portion is exposed. This is to prevent skin discoloration.

For those wanting the in clinic treatment, call 632-8899643. For those who just want the Neostrata AHA 15 safe-home treatment, call 2424202 to find the outlet nearest you.

E-mail the author at Annyo. Ink@mail.com

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POWERED BY 4G

New book is the buzz–
From Vuitton to Jacobs

"You have to be respectful in order to preserve, but you also have to be somewhat disrespectful in order to evolve"

"Louis Vuitton/Marc Jacobs" (Abbeville/Rizzoli/Gribbit, Lee Ann Daneman/Marc Jacobs, April 2012, 304 pages)

By Cherie V. Moral

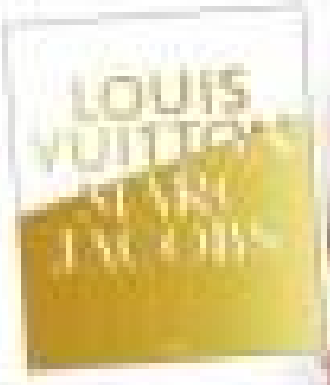
IT WOULD BE a stretch to say Spooty- and Rorpell-inking sessions and men are interested to know the historical provenance of their bags, more so if that narrative involves flipping through 300-plus pages of a coloured tome.

Still, there's no denying "Louis Vuitton/Marc Jacobs," the 304-page book released to accompany an ongoing exhibition at the Les Arts Decoratifs in

BACK TO SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT STORE

New book is the buzz—From Vuitton to Jacobs



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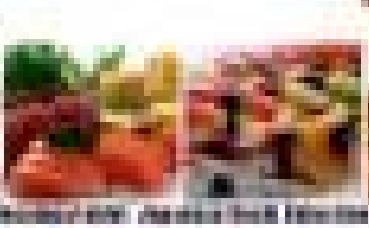
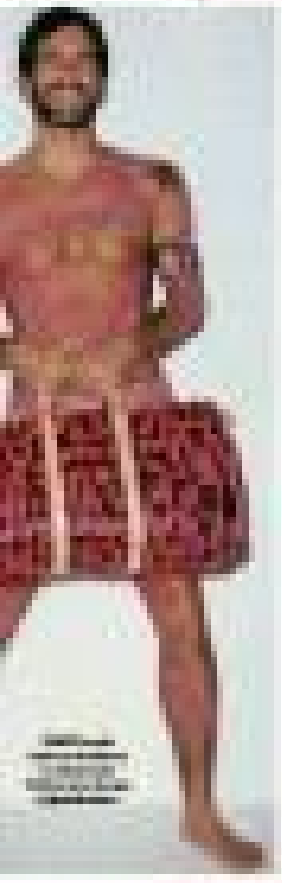
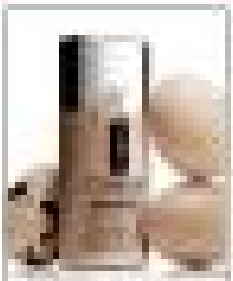
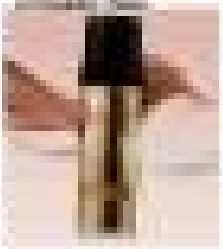






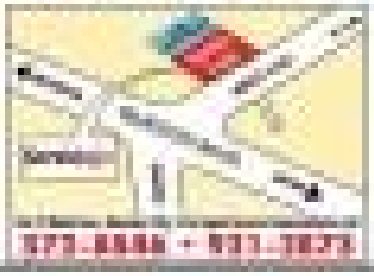
Foundation corrects skin tone, treats dark spots

New makeup zaps wrinkles



ing from Korea perfected in Japan. THE ONE TRUE YAKINIKU.

EST AVENUE!



SERVING YOU LUNCH & DINNER

How to have young-looking skin–at 30 and beyond

By Carmencita S. Baroso
Lifestyle

VALUABLE endorser Daphne Osena-Paez, Unilever marketing manager for skin (to join Vaseline and Unilever PR and events manager Nikki Abella

AT 35 YEARS OLD and petite, I cringe when others ask if I'm still in high school, or even—as my damage—under school. In hopes of having the appearance of a sophisticated lady rather than a naive schoolgirl, I promptly took his kind to be using 30.

Looks aside, I've always had the notion that 30-year-olds have matured a balance between maturity and youth. I look to my 30-something year-old friends with much respect as they seem to be more certain of themselves and a lot wiser than my 25-year-old self's only starting to get the hang of things.

With beauty rooted in personality as much as in appearance, even research shows that a woman in her 30s is considered more attractive than a female (aged) teen or a woman 20-year-old.

But then, women also want to slow down the telltale signs of skin aging (yes, women want to have their cake and eat it too). So it's impossible to turn back the clock to the time when your skin was to ripen drops, women need many tools to keep wrinkles and age spots at bay.

Skincare tips

To address the main concerns of skin aging, Vaseline recently launched Dr Perfect 10 Whitening and Anti-aging lotion. It is the brand's first and only product that tackles wrinkles, fine lines, light-to-dark, redness, dark spots and glow/UV/IR protection.

With ingredients such as Vitamin B3 and 12A, skin tone is evened out and age spots and hyperpigmentation are reduced. To reverse fine lines and wrinkles, infused chondroitin collagen production; ARA triples hydrosyl acid) exfoliates dead skin cells and antioxidants protect skin against free-radical damage.

At the media launch, the brand's endorser Daphne Osena-Paez shared her experience with skin aging and a few tips on skincare.

At skin aging is affected by factors such as lifestyle and environment, Daphne is adamant about sticking to a healthy lifestyle, slathering on some sunblock and Vaseline lotion, and seeking cover under sun umbrella to protect her skin from the sun's harmful effects.

Perhaps for 20-something she could learn a thing or two from successful women in their 30s, who not only emanate beauty from within, but also look as fit as a fiddle.

As "Sex and the City's" Carrie Bradshaw once said, "Enjoy yourself. That's what your 20s are for. Your 30s are to learn. The forties..."

LTEF Cabal | ANNA Arroyo-Alonzo | HAPPY Lopez

Successful ladies share what they like most about being in their 30s

"WALKING TIME 30s is not as complicated as you thought when you were in your 20s. The freedom of having other people rely on you, and to not feel left out. It's like I'm in my 30s, I feel wiser, more confident, and capable of accomplishing greater things."—Agnes Bengzon, former Miss Bicol-Luzon

"Independence and wisdom gained from experience."—Kat Cruz, book magazine fashion editor

"When I hit my 30s, I learned to completely accept my strengths and flaws and the wonder I learned out to be. I learned to love life and others maturely and with a more self-assured attitude."—Happy Lopez, Cosmopolitan magazine associate fashion editor

KRT Cruz

Paisleys, prints and pastels

By Accelle L. Tiyao

TAKING INSPIRATION from nature—"the art of preparing natural dishes"—The Ramp Crossings showcased at the Philippine Fashion Week (PFW) a collection of pieces in paisley and prints, pastels and florals, going the Holiday 2012 collections a summer's flavor.

Held May 22, The Ramp Crossings opened the first day of PFW at Hall 2 of the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City.

Opening the show (dressed by Ridley Carmona, styled by Tanyl and Andre Ocampo) was a chronicle, double-dress opening of The Ramp Crossings' "mom," a black-and-white tie-dye sweatshirt with a maxi, leopard dress toted in backdrop on the runway. Up first was a black-and-white ensemble, with sleeveless peplum top and three maxi skirt clothed at the waist by a peplum belt.

What followed was a barrage of paisley (and more peplum) for the woman: romper and skinny pants in metallic gold, striking blue bodysleeve top with shoulder cut-outs and pencil skirt; black hooded maxi dress.

Then were also pants, jacket, maxi dress in white paisley sleeve long skirts and tops/dresses.

Here to accommodated the more chic shoes, mostly five inch-high wedges, booties and pumps in bright colors. Framed flats came in black, cream, white and yellow all with gold-capped toe detail.

Whimsical fine Mundo had a collar palette of paisleys, mostly in blue, orange and yellow. Quirky accessories, such as braided belts, paisley hat, scarf and slippers, added flair to the otherwise casual line.

Adding a playful touch to the show—and collecting applause from the audience—were "mini versions" of the male and female models, the young fashionistas who proudly walked down the runway wearing The Ramp Kids creations.

This current resort paisley, plus florals, on only brides. Cops and pants for the girls; and on equally casual set of polo shirts and shorts for the boys.

And like in the opening, The Ramp Crossings closed the show with black-and-white outfits—with big, bold lines and motifs paired with sheer mesh skirt for the ladies and on the gents, what looked like sweater-knickers, with skinny pants and long-sleeved sweaters over collared shirt.

The Ramp Crossings' Holiday 2012 collection is available online at www.theramp.com.ph.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK

Bling rules

There's more to fashion than mere ornamentation

By Alex V. Vergara

IT WAS twin of Philippine Fashion Week not to leave inside Dubai-based Filipino designer Ezra Santos open a group show he was part of recently. But it didn't make him the fi nale either, which was a pity.

Instead, organizers used alphabetical ordering with Albert Andrada, Bench/, Flores, Ram Puruhito, Santos and Tarun Tahiliani.

Ezra Santos, a graduate of Mom's Fashion School some years back, opened the Sunday night show at SMX, the audience would have heard the recording shoot-and-climactic, fl ic-chest banger and words mishap of fur collection, including gowns with metallic beaded fashion, breastwork crystals and textured cashmere dresses, couldn't nevertheless dazzle those of his colleagues.

Except for the young Manila-based Tessor, Santos and company all coated their space ahead doing menswear and mixed-showing dancers for models of Philippine Fast wealthy-mad their rich colors.

The Dubai-based designers all showed, in varying degrees, flashes of brilliance and mastery of techniques as they manipulated anything and everything. Neon layers of tulle or shaped shirt, but, Santos's eye-tulle to metallic quilted.

Andrada went three of Chinese to spiced theme to show us his objective at cutting and re-construction. Even he seemed to run minimal technique and construction, it was a refreshing and welcome move, since the others predictably went down his Nihonese inspirations by showcasing very heavy Empress designs from minimalist Philippines to Alber Elbaz's Brother Bosquiet to Dramelle Versace.

Integral efforts

Overambitious and blinding bling were just for the

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ART CHIVE, Alexis Abaya, Gianna Devara, Marika Jocson, Chiara Macalino, Tessa Tesoro, Shayne Sy Cha, Noelle Gandia, Kyle Funes

DAZZLING debutantes Joanna Robles in white gown by Raja Leand, reality Michael Lyches and teen gowns by Larry Espinosa

HEMANI Resort's owner Hemi Gheewy, Mesa Restaurant franchise holder's Jose Francis "Kike" Sevgilioun and Bikki Das, Boracay Garden Resort assistant vendor president Allen Chaney

FREDDY Tudon, Jessy Briones, Boracay Resort's executive chef Dario Rosas, Rimrik dela Fuente

ERIKA and Benj Dee

ASSISTANT to the Mayor Wilson Enriquez, Boracay Regency banquet and event manager Marinella Mabasa, resort manager Dindo Salazar

JOSEPH and Jeri Oyabbo, Ariel Ngo, Nick Bautista, Hotlo, Jessa Tang, Hanna Agustin, Marlie Thomas, Paulo Zabate

THE DEBUTANTE with her family: Jessa, mother Debby, Joanna, father Ezequiel Robles, Michelle and Michael Robles

NILDA Robles, Sheila Santos, Norma Alfonso, May Ortiz, Kat and Robbie Robles

Photos by Alex Vea Hagora
powered by nikon P&AC zoom

CAN YOU BELIEVE, children, that Citi is 200 years old, and it's stronger than ever? Hey, that's a good reason to roll out the red carpet and throw a grand bash for all its clients and business partners in the country!

Citi's country officer Sanjiv Vohra recently did that, regards to multi-hotshot investors, during the 45th annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Board of Governors, held in Manila.

Citi became the first private sector partner of ADB, especially in the emerging Asian region. Vohra, during the cocktail reception at the Citi Penthouse at the Peninsula Manila, welcomed the guests, including ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda, vice president Bindu Lohani, and other ADB officials.

Also present were Citi Asia Pacific Management Director and senior head of Global Banking and managing director of Public Sector Group Jay Collins, some of the top executives in the ADB seminars. It was Citi that ended the ADB meeting with a huge cocktail reception where all these power players settled down with others like them, and singles.

Also was told that one guest, when he pulled out his wallet to tip a waiter, was told by a friend, beside him: "Your wallet is so thick." To which the guest answered, "No, it would be thin, if it were not full of credit cards." Amen to that, eh!

At the end of the celebration, Jessie Sabio said: "Citi is proud to celebrate our 200th anniversary for 200 years, and what better way to do this than by saying thank you to all of you who continue to reward us with your trust and loyalty. Today, Citi is one of the best capitalized banks in the world, and we put our financial strength to use for clients whether in government, multinationals, small businesses or individuals, a clear strategy for the future."

Applause for Citi, darlings!

Robles debut

She has officially become a young woman of society. Darlings, **Joanna dela Rita Robles**, eye-catching beautiful daughter of president of Ma. Travia Realty and Development Inc. lyyoor **Ezequiel Robles** and his wife Michelle "Shelley" **dela Paz Robles**, recently had her 18th birthday celebration at Le Pavillon Metropolitan Park, Binay Boulevard, in Pasay.

All throughout the grand darbuhan, from the cotillion to the dance of the 18 roses, Joan is dazzled the invitees with his luxe ball gown changes. The power suits created by top designers **Raja Laxamil, Larry Espinosa** and **Francis Libiran**. Her real party outfit: mean-while, was by Michael Leyba.

The debut's theme, pairug-pug, involved several elements of six senses: metal and earth, fire, magnetism, **Blanche Lamontagne**, ear lines, acted as party hosts.

Joanna's eldest brother, **Paul Michael** led the toast, while the 18 roses during the waltzing was highlighted by a candle dance, performed to the song "I See The Light." The roses followed by songs rendered by the debutante's peers, and one by her dad Ezequiel, who sang "What A Wonderful World." Mesa Marbella, meanwhile, sang "Can't Smile Without You." Sir-**Michelle Lhuillier** and her fiancé Rex, her real career is law. Ask the rest of the village, all joined in, too, by serenading the celebrant with "Count On Me."

Joanna was not to be outdone, as she sang "I'm The World's Greatest." Obviously she was, at the special moment as our Princess for a Day, darlings. Cheers!

Mesa in Boracay

The upscale Boracay Regency Beach Resort and Spa, the first triple-A resort in the island province, recently opened a branch of Mesa Restaurant at the resort's beachfront, pelangan.

The Filipino restaurant is known for its "excellent Filipino" cuisine. The 'topnotch dining outlet was formally opened at the resort's beachfront with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by famous Resorts chain and Cheda's pride Henry Cheaney, along with Mesa Restaurant Associate Operations boss Francis "Kike" Pangilinan and restaurateur-art collector **Rikki Das**. Also on hand was Boracay Garden Resort's assistant to the president, tall and good-looking chamorro **Allen Chaney**.

The restaurant has rustic-toned interiors, and a menu of superbly done Filipino dishes prepared with exciting twists. Glam chefs this cost, pelangan: Chipo Laing, Crispchow, Rosario Salad "pronto segments cooked with roasted garlic in cumin and served on a banana leaf sauce; Tofu Inihal herb century eggs and chutney; and the must-have, salted crusted sinigang...yummy!

"The best of paradise has more to offer this satisfying with the opening of this new dining haven at Boracay Regency's Mesa Restaurant," said Nikki Das, in the applause of the natives, pelangan.

Mesa is at Station 2, Beachfront of Boracay Regency Beach Resort and Spa. Call Manila office, tel. (632) 5207204, or visit www.boracayregency.com.

EZRA Section

SEAMLESS
Headwork on classic silhouettes, by Ezra Santos

Bling rules

From page E1

KERMIT Tesoro

BAHOOKS Flores

ALBERT Andrada

BLITZ Fuentes

THELMA Collection

Sexy slingbacks, striking wedges

PIJAKA-DOT slingback from the Water collection; below, red-hot platform wedges

STUDDED heels from the Earth Collection (below, left), a breezy number from the Air collection (below)

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THE SUITE LIFE
Pearl necklace from Ruenvidho Collection and Margherita earrings and ring

ART TO WEAR
Valerie de los Santos wears 2 tri-section design of bionic cascade of pearls and diamonds.

JEWELMER
Golden Philippine South Sea pearls set with diamonds and 18-karat gold

Romance of the golden pearls

By Lory Lozada
Contributor

JEWELMER JEWELLERS opened its first concept boutique at Newport Mall, Resorts World. This trail-blazing showcase is a definitive nod to Jewelmer's 62-year-old history as the first luxury brand in the Philippines. It also celebrates its heritage as the leading global purveyor of golden South Sea pearls.

Jewelmer Jewellery's concept boutique gives impeccable service that clients have long associated with the brand. Distinctive features of the boutique include a private VIP salon, exclusive collection previews and selections of unique loose jewelry. Every piece of furniture and décor in the showroom services a stylish purpose, enhancing the opulence with finesse, discreet charm and subtle elegance.

The Ming circle displays one a prime point of interest, showcasing a collection of the 500-year-old "Pandanan Junk," artifacts recovered off the coast of Pandanan Island in Palawan. The fateful discovery was made one day when a pearl farmer happened upon an assortment of jars, vases, plates dating back to the 1400s. They were painstakingly excavated to preserve evidence of maritime practices and Chinese expeditions to the Spice Islands, while lifting Dynasty engravers sent their finest men to create porcelain and silk for South Sea pearls in the look of the 15th century.

Jewelmer was established in 1979. Its founders, Mikimoto Gotaro and Jacques Branellec, anchored Jewelmer's philosophy on the perfect partnership between man and nature to create the most lustrous pearls. That vision of sustainability and perfection has driven the pearl company to become the principal producer of the exquisite golden Pinctada South Sea pearl—the rarest of its kind. The legacy of this Queen of Gems was officially endorsed in 1998, when President Fidel V. Ramos proclaimed the South Sea Pearl as the country's National Gem.

True to its French-Filipino beginnings, Jewelmer expertly melds French artistry and Filipino passion into inspired creations. Guests perused the displays encasing Jewelmer's superb breadth and pearls, expertly crafted into fine jewelry. The pearls are set against gold, diamonds and other colored stones to enhance the glow of each orb. Among the perfectly matched strand necklaces was the Dewey collection, which showcases the lustrous golden pearls dripping of delicate 18-karat gold branches and glittering diamond leaves.

The Jewelmer Jewellery concept boutique is the latest of the 15 retail locations, poised in impeccable service and situated in five-star hotels and high-end shopping malls across the Philippines. Jewelmer also retains resort and retail presence in Hong Kong, Dubai, Melbourne and Paris.

PEARL JAM
Kristina Cayabyab displays simpler yet stunning three-in-1 choker and pearl-tiered earring.

OPERA LENGTH
Louvre Pedersen wears flapper pearl rope. Art Deco style.

TALISMAN
Jewelmer's Jasmine de Leon wears a fine jewelry necklace that can be worn to night or day with matching earrings.

PEARLY GREATS
Jewelmer's Lanlita Mangaoil shows how to wear a long rope of golden pearls—multiways.

CHOKER
Jewelmer's Nina Cajoli with eclectic one-a-round necklace and button pearl earrings.

GOLDEN PEARL
Jewelmer's Jacklene Fong proudly shows off a pearl and diamond earring and long choker.

GREAT GATSBY
Rosario de Leon-Gonzalez drips with three lengths of alternating white and golden pearls.

2b LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Contributing Editor Saul Cubal

The world will soon be in our hands– are we ready?

'We have to make these global issues part of our common language as young people–as common as Facebook, likes, internet memes, tweets, Justin Bieber and viral videos'

By Christopher Aronson
Contributor

DID YOU KNOW Facebook is used more on a weekly basis than Google?

Did you know that if Facebook were a country, it would be the third largest country in the world? Did you know that when you drive through a McDonald's in the US, the person you can't be talking to on the other end of the speaker is possibly someone from the Philippines or India working in a call center?

Did you know that our generation, Generation Y, is the most ethnically diverse in all of history? Did you know that with all the scientific research and technological achievements of humankind, we actually have the capacity to make our world sustainable and peaceful?

We are all riding on such a huge wave of change as an evolving civilization that one cannot help but to be thrilled and excited.

At the same time, there are things to be frightened about. Did you know we've reached the seven billion mark as a population? And did you know that to sustain ourselves as a growing population, we will have to double food production?

We are struggling to find equitable means of production and distribution of food for everyone on the planet, while hundreds of millions of people are going hungry every day. But did you know the wealthiest countries have the power to keep most of the resources to themselves?

Did you know that one-third of our population is at war today? However, it's ironic that more people die each year, not in armed conflicts—they commit suicide.

While possibilities abound to truly evolve into a peaceful and technologically advanced people, there are genuine hurdles we must overcome.

Global problems

These may not exactly be the typical Sunday planning job-scrambling things you'd expect from someone who just finished school, but bear me out. The issues our world faces now—overpopulation, global warming and climate change, the shifting balance of power from the West to the East, food and water crises, global economic instability...are the issues that the leaders of today will be passing down to us.

These are the issues that we, the youth, will have to come to grips with when we step out into the real world: as the new businessmen and women, engineers, doctors, scientists, artists and politicians of society.

We face very real issues, however, that these issues will not be solved overnight. In fact, our current leaders are far from reaching any concrete and effective solutions to these global problems.

Do you remember the Copenhagen (COP15)—the United Nations Climate Change Conference that many were hoping would bring strong and immediate action from the wealthy, CO2-emitting countries? The result was disastrous, because the US, China, India, Brazil and South Africa were not bound to cut, or even to mitigate climate change.

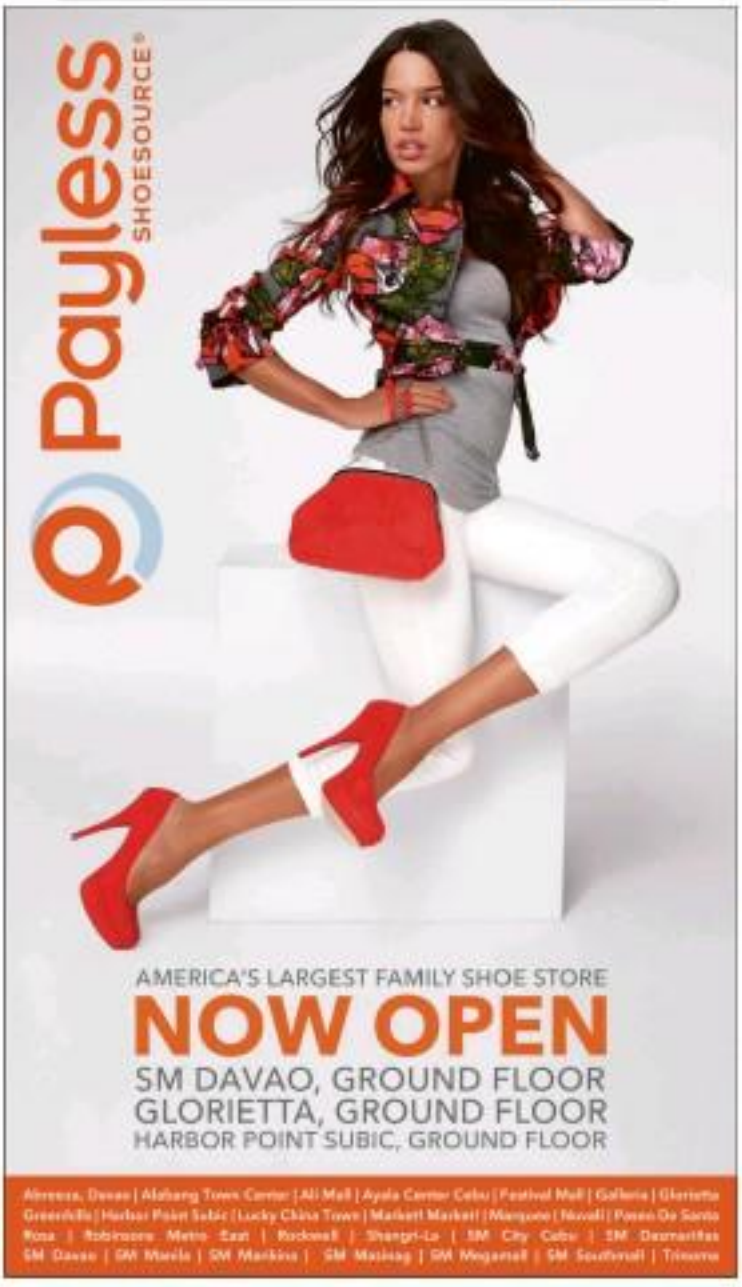
The global food crisis has grown worse as our population has grown to 7 billion and continues to grow at a faster rate than ever before. While 800 million people go hungry every day, cows in the European Union, the supposed model of continental political and economic integration, are subsidized for $2.50 a day—more than the UN even what half the world's population lives on.

What about the global economy? Countries are going bankrupt as they realize that the unlimited growth model of capitalism doesn't work. As the rate of inflation increases and as central banks and national economies keep printing more money to bail out too-big-to-fail corporations, the whole financial system is on its way to a disastrous collapse. But this is something that has been brewing since the '80s, and probably long before that.

Failures

Yet presidents, CEOs, the heads of international banks and monetary funds have failed to make strong, meaningful measures to truly stabilize the economy. And China, economists say, is soon to follow suit, as the real estate bubble is about to burst.

THE WORLD, P2



LECTURE mode: right, Tobias Guggenheimer, School of Fashion and the firm's academic dean

SOFA lobby at the new campus in the building that was Bonaire, Makati

Design–what makes for a good one

'You have to somehow be able to challenge your preconceptions,' says SoFA's new academic dean

By Annelle S. Tayao

"FRAMES. Utility. Delight."

Written on a plain white card placed on our lunch plates, these three words by interior fashion architect Marcio Vilanova Pedin, quoted by modernist architect, Tobias Guggenheimer, the new academic dean of the School of Fashion (and the new), are the theme of the day's discussion.

These three words are basically "shorthand to represent what a design needs to be successful," said Guggenheimer. "Furniture means it has to be structurally sound. Utility, of course, it is multiplexes, and delight, definitely."

With these values Guggenheimer plans to reintroduce SoFA's fashion and design curriculum here, to focus on building up students' critical thinking in the design and creative process. Different moving on to develop their technical and business skills.

Over dinner, Guggenheimer engaged media in a casual, classroom-like discussion at SoFA's new campus in Bay Building on Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati.

'Prima donna' of classes

The first part of SoFA's curriculum, in the "SoFA Method," happens in what Guggenheimer called the "prima donna" of classes—the Design Studio. Comparing it to the popular Fashion Design challenge show "Project Runway," this course, a requirement for every semester, will have students critiquing each other's finished works.

"We start with design theory, culture and concepts, drawing and representation," he said. "So, say that the client, then we translate those ideas through practical courses."

To add substance to students' design concepts, one portion of the curriculum is devoted to General Education courses.

"Design is a cultural value, elements," said Guggenheimer. "It approaches ideas, community, removing hurdles and realities. In order to do a design, you have to somehow be able to challenge your preconceptions."

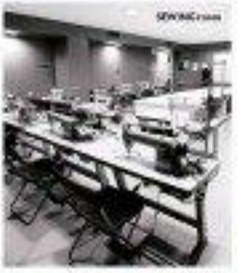
One example he cited is the study of Saudi "Sex Me Designer" and "El Fillionerismo," which he said could be viewed from remote material perspective.

Finally, there are fabric business and marketing courses, to give students a "sufficient set of skills and a level of appreciation ... to enter the global market."

Aside from his on-line technical experience, earning half of his firm here in the country (the other half in New York), Guggenheimer has taught at Parsons School of Design, and Pratt University. He's been teaching since 1991.

"It's extremely rewarding to be in an academic environment because of the tremendous sense of optimism and enthusiasm," he said.

Visit sofamanila.com for more information on SoFA design programs.



SEWING room

Nuts about the 'Nut' bracelet

All you need are some shoestrings, a few bolts and nuts, and creative knotting skills

By Jerico Villanueva
Contributor

IS A DAY of accessories, they complete our looks.

Sometimes accessories can burn a hole in our pockets, because some of the good ones cost more than what we're willing to spend.

This leads me to my two-month DIY 'blitz' frenzies. I was on vacation in my hometown, where my father owns an auto supply shop. When I got the idea.

I was looking around the area, and the sight of rubber seals and bolts inspired me to make a bracelet.

What you need:

1 Nuts. You can buy these nuts in hardware stores or auto supply shops. For the nuts, I used bolts. I asked my father if I could get 25 of the nuts each. The price is 50 per nut, but if other shoppers on the store you order.

2 Shoelaces. I found these spare shoelaces around the house. Grocery ally color you like.

3 Scissors.

4 Tying skills and/or knotting skills. You can ask your sister or your mom to teach you how to bond. Or here we can—Google.

SHOELACES and nuts

How to:

1 Tie a simple knot to keep the three shoelaces. In what I like in making an ounce. It's necessary different from braiding human hair, so I'm pretty sure you wouldn't have any problem learning the technique.

2 Delineate your guide and bracelet length and to hold the three halves through your 3-sided length. Then this.

3 Remember: there are three pieces of shoelaces: one piece on the left, one piece in the middle and another on the right. Continue the pictured by inserting a nut on the right shoelace (notice the 3 shoelaces in the middle shoelaces. On the same picture—observe the nut on the left shoelace before the one in the middle shoelace. Continue until you get to the last piece of nut. The nuts should look like a necklace pendant, and should be in the middle of the bracelet itself.

4 After inserting the last nut, start the knotting process again. See what you did in the first step. Finish the bracelet by tying another knot at the end.

SIMPLE braiding skills can be done with this bracelet

Note:

- Adjust the length of the nuts and the number of nuts according to your wrist size, as you preferred fit. Then you're done.
- You can simply tie both ends together when you want to put on the bracelet, like what I did, or you can become the talented be other ways to lock your bracelet.
- The designed your bracelets, surrounded by the materials I've shown you here. Look around and think of other things you can pick up and combine with the bands and nuts, so you can make your accessory more personalized and original.
- Be consistently resourceful and creative.

Smart and bubbly –like her fave drink

As the new brand ambassador for Coke Zero, Toni Gonzaga shows us how to have it all

By Yolita Barretto
Contributor

WOW! WOULD you like to have it all?

This was the question posed to various media personalities, bloggers, fans and special guests when Coke Zero presented its newest brand ambassador at the launch last May 22 at The Gallery in Greenbelt 5, Makati, hosted by RJ Ledesma.

She is the "Ultimate Multitasker Mom," host, actress and singer Toni Gonzaga.

"She is just the perfect brand ambassador for Coke Zero," said Nikki Lee, brand manager of Coke Zero. "She's achieved remarkable things and, at the same time, enjoys what she's doing. We are proud to have someone like her who does have it all."

"Coke has always been a part of my life," says Toni. "With my new discovery, Coke Zero, I get to have everything without having to compromise. It has less sugar and great taste! Plus, I get to maintain my figure."

And that's right on it. The star attributes her enviably slim figure to good genes, and Coke Zero. When asked if she's on any diet to keep her figure, she quipped: "I'm on a 'workout' diet. When I see food, I eat it."

11 YEARS and counting—she girlfriend-to-Coke flare seems a long way

Big break

This supermarket girl from Bicol has come a long way from being the teenager who joined singing competitions in their town.

Her big break came in 2001, when in a withdrawn commercial she played a school fangirl who, upon spotting her idol, screamed, "I love you, Bimbamuuuuuuuuu."

Shortly after, romantic comedies, solo albums, and hosting stints on ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Big Brother" and "The Buzz" followed. Eleven years later, she's a multi-talented star.

"I was 17? What would have brought me 11 years later, I'd guess represent a friend in the same family as the 'I love you, Pedro' ad," said Toni with a laugh.

And she's eternally grateful. "When I was 22, I surrendered that Christmas Instance for our church. It was then that I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, and since I felt complete. All these things that came after, I treat as gifts," she said.

The world will soon be in our hands–are we ready?

From page F1

Speaking of which, senators Jejomar Binay and the US are growing, and our leaders could allow beauty to repeat itself as a post-21st-century Cold War developer in the global arena. In fact the US wants to remain the most powerful country in the world, China...with its cheap labor, explosive economic growth and emerging military strength...threatens the very prince. Plus that the great "American dream" has been hounded on.

Moreover, as the US begins to realize that its intervention in the politics of Iran and Iraq, Israel and Palestine, and North Korea between unmanageable, Russia and China are finding good opportunities to turn the tables on the US. And now the Philippines seems to be getting dragged into the political game, as the old-rich Spratly Islands dispute continues.

Will we choose sides? Will we remain neutral? How can we find diplomatic ways to keep the peace and yet uphold our agenda? Plus to choose your own destiny?

The dots are there for anyone to connect. If one would just open his critical eye to what is happening around us.

What we think

I bring these issues up not because I want to scare readers about what looms ahead. My only point is this: The harder we solve these problems will fall on our shoulders sooner than we think.

I just graduated, and now I have to find a job. Will I try to get into a 9-5 shift in a corporation that pulls its money in the offices of politicians and bankers or support its own agenda of accumulating private wealth and power, just because it's a big paycheck? Or will I try to follow my conviction and find a job that is meaningful and contributes positively to society even if the pay is small?

I'm not graduated, and soon, I'll be getting my own piece. How can I find a place that is all the good and conscious my own ecological principles? I studied Theater Arts, so I'll try to make a difference in this world by helping advance Filipino theater and art, and in the process, both. But how can I keep my integrity and not get sucked into a system that feeds off the underdogs and elevating greedy people to power?

The real world can seem so far away—when we were students. It's a safe swimming where you graduate and all of a sudden so many responsibilities greet you at the doorstep.

Once, I was excited to speak all the college graduation commencement. I'm not, and to say how to make the most of our college education.

Beyond that, we must make these global issues part of our common language as young people—as students in textbooks, films, literature courses, movies, Justin Bieber and viral videos.

If we don't begin to confront these issues, while we are young, idealistic, in the prime environment of the academic milieu where we are free to make mistakes, when will we?

In many ago, the idealistic youth of the 20th century were facing similar unprecedented changes: the industrial revolution, world cycles, totalitarianism, economic and physical migration. It was as we are enabled by two world wars and an economic collapse.

We face another today on the same precipice, and we can either fly or fall. It's simple to see.

Fashion merchandising–what it takes, why it's exciting

Topman's Anjo de la Cruz explains the rudiments of the job

By Lori Carla San Juan

WHERE to find Cruz's personal style influences will be evident, he said, in: "I'm actually one of those who wouldn't be afraid to try on new styles that would rather wear something comfortable."

"A GROWING number of young Filipinos are becoming more experimental and are willing to try on different styles."

FOR MOST of us, retail therapy is not just therapy—it is life. We just *right* like things we want (style wise), buy them and we're happy.

Behind the scenes, however, is something else. It is where back-breaking work happens—a center of complex reports, monitoring inventory, sales analysis, trend forecasting, etc. This is definitely no easy job, but someone has to do it, and since you got the hang of it, it can get quite interesting.

Anjo de la Cruz works in the merchandising arm of British street brand, Topman, under Robinsons Specialty Stores, Inc. Answering sales reports on a daily basis helps him analyze the consumers' buying behaviors.

"I go into stores and talk with store personnel and ask them about customer feedback," he says of a typical day at work.

"That helps us know what type of merchandise a specific customer is looking for. Our line can be tame of what the customer wants; we try our best to give it to them," he says.

According to De la Cruz, knowing the trends even before the public does, and being surrounded by fashion-minded individuals, make the job more fun.

"Being in the retail industry isn't exactly an easy job; you always have to be prepared, without knowing what to expect. You must be able to educate customers about the seasonal trends in the easiest and most innovative ways possible."

Sale shoppers

De la Cruz describes young Pinoy shoppers as "safe." They go for basic tops in varied colors and shades, which they can wear in many ways. Since Topman's collection gets its inspiration from the British high street, there are pieces with old cuts and shapes, which some customers find too intimidating to wear.

"All it takes is to make them feel comfortable about the new trend and ensure them it's cool," he says. "A growing number of young Filipinos are becoming more experimental and are willing to try on different styles."

For those who are interested to go into this career, De la Cruz describes fashion retail as something that will keep one on his or her toes. "Expect fast-changing trends as it pays to be informed," he says.

Discipline is also key in any job, fans learned, for able to adapt to different customers. Keep an open mind and don't restrict yourself. Learn to explore other ideas because you can learn a lot from people around you.

"It matters to know what the customers want," says dela Cruz. It always pays to listen to customers and know insights from them.

De la Cruz has long ago realized that clothing has a powerful ability to affect a person's mood and motivations. There are those who really go out of their way to dress up not only to look good, but because they really enjoy dressing up. And that's why Jet is Cruz takes his fashion job seriously.

PHOTOGRAPH, RAPHAEL Styling Lori Carla San Juan Grooming Jet Campos Hairstyle Via Rivera Clothes Topman

Trendy *timepieces*

RUSSEL mark is the favorite piece

TOMMY'S WATCHES are fashionable but budget-friendly. They're affordable, ranging from P500-P1,200.

With its Japanese technology and one-year warranty, Tommy watches seem to good value-for-money choices. There's a wide variety of designs to suit various personalities.

Tommy Outlet stores and kiosks hold month sale until June 17, where people can buy two pieces of selected designs for P700.

Visit www.tommy.ph.

CLASSIC pink leather watch: spy can bling studded silver watch with printed floral straps

SCHOOL BAGS
Outdoor Products has recently released some laptop backpacks in time for school opening. The backpacks are made with Cordura fabric, a specialized material with high-tenacity fiber technology, known for its durability and resistance to abrasions, tears and scuffs. The bags also have YKK zippers. Outdoor Products bags are available at Rustan's Department Store Manila, Galleria, Cubao, Pampanga, Fairmall, Parklane, Rockwell, Greenhills, Alabang, Trinoma, Glorietta, Eastwood and Makati; Fully Booked Global City. E-mail info@outdoorproducts.com.ph or call 911-9490.

THE CITY CLUB A Club Like No Other

Imagine a place where you can close that important business deal, train for an upcoming triathlon, or enjoy an intimate dinner with family and friends. This will all be a reality for members of the City Club. Alphaland's newest urban lifestyle and leisure facility located at the halfway point of Makati's business and residential districts.

"We saw the need for a unique, well-designed club that could cater to families, singles, yuppies and executives alike, and that is why we have all these exciting amenities and establishments in one place," says Nick Coldrey, Alphaland VP for Club Management and Operations.

With over 20,000 square meters of space, the City Club will change the way you think about the club concept. "No other development boasts of all these amenities under one roof. The completeness of The City Club is what makes it so special," Nick explains. If you think about it, the only thing that's missing is a polo field and some horses.

BUSINESS & PLEASURE

For businessmen and yuppies, here's a good reason to get outside the four walls of your office. The City Club has numerous meeting rooms and function rooms that let you meet with your partners and clients in complete privacy and total comfort. All the features and conveniences you need to move up and get ahead are available — including WIFI, video conferencing, and a state-of-the-art flat optic network. But of all, the meeting rooms are in close proximity to facilities that complement your busy lifestyle such as the basketball and tennis courts. The City Club gives you more options to engage with the people that matter most. Be it family, friends or colleagues at work.

GET FIT

To achieve complete health and wellness, there's no better place than the City Club. Aside from the indoor tennis and basketball courts, swimming pools, spa and a fully equipped gym, the club will offer instruction such as boxing, squash, martial arts, Pilates, aerobics, and yoga. The City Club also targets the children category and whether you are attending a conference meeting, getting a massage, or spending quality time with your husband. Drop them off at the children's gym, or kiddie pool, or enroll them in dance lessons. With a City Club membership, your kids are just one or two floors away. There's no need to waste time in traffic rushing to pick them up elsewhere.

THE CITY CLUB
alphaland @ MAKATI PLACE

What sets the dining club food is a blend expert execution. The City Club will dispel that notion with an impressive line-up of 8 specialty restaurants showcasing a variety of cuisines for the most worldly of tastes. Are you craving for authentic Spanish tapas, traditional Chinese Dim Sum or a juicy grilled steak cooked to perfection? Then again, it all ties long for is a heart warming bowl of Tongue Singang or Mee the City Club will have that too. With the nation's best restaurants in one place, you're in for a truly unique and delectable dining experience—whether you're out on a romantic dinner date, or hosting family lunch.

DINE IN

When it comes to interiors and finishes, The City Club is done to the highest quality and can trust or expect any less than best. Not only does it serve as a background for a variety of activities, it is also an attractive place to spend time with friends and family. This is in line with Alphaland's philosophy of sustainable development, which is why the project is aiming for a Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) pre-certification by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). A LEED certified building provides a healthier work and living environment, which contributes to higher productivity and improved health.

GREEN BY DESIGN

A WORTHY INVESTMENT

At the beginning of 2011, a City Club share was valued at half a million pesos. Today, that figure has doubled in value and is expected to appreciate when the club opens.

If clubs are rated on their amenities, services and design, then the City Club will indeed set the bar for all these criteria. Partnering with Wong & Ouyang, who played an essential role in the emergence of Hong Kong as one of the world's most advanced cities and whose projects include The Pacific Place, along with local well-established companies in the fields of architecture, interior design, landscaping and sustainability, Alphaland Corporation is set to perfect an urban club with a scale never before accomplished in the country.

The City Club is set to open in December 2012. For inquiries, contact Alphaland Corporation at: T: 632.846.6200 | M: 63.917.307.1743
E: sales@alphaland.com.ph
Corporate Address: 8th Floor, Alphaland Southgate Tower, 2258 Chino Roces Ave (Pasong Tamo) corner EDSA, Makati City
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On the senatorial outburst

DENNIS a point one on Wednesday Mayo Cinco Pro-Entertainment, chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, has asked about his...

ON THE G!

HEARD

Kiefer Sutherland on his new girl, TV show

LOS ANGELES — Kiefer Sutherland had a tough act to follow: Jean Reno. "I wouldn't even try," Kiefer quipped as he sat down on the chair just vacated by the Hollywood icon.

Looking very preppy and sporting a new haircut, Kiefer had rapidly transverting topics to talk to the third on the film adaptation of "24"; his new venture "Touch"; a part in Alicia Vela's new movie; the anniversary he has been dating; and his reaction when he saw his father, Donald Sutherland, and Julie Christie in one of cinema's all-time sexiest scenes (Nicolas Roeg's "Don't Look Now").

Excerpts from our interview:

After your incredibly experience with "24," you've been on television. What made you decide to do this show?

I was doing a play on Broadway "The Guardsman: Sex, Sex," and operating myself. I had done a film ("Melancholia") with Lars von Trier in Sweden and was getting ready to work with Mira Nair on "The Reluctant Fundamentalist"—two really different projects. I was having an amazing time with the variety of material that I was being given.

Then I was sent this script of "Touch" by Peter Chernin (producer), Sharon Pyrnel (executive producer) sent me the script. I asked what it was about and she said, "Well, it's a television show." I said, "I don't think I'm ready." I want to go back to television— that I had never been discover about. I loved my experience but it was only two years after "24." I was just starting to get into a groove of other things to do. Then I read the script. I was about a third of the way through and going, "Oh s**t" because I really did like the piece. It was the first time I had ever read a script that I was actually enjoying but I was thinking, it could still fall apart. Maybe it won't have a good ending or something but that didn't happen. I fell in love with it more and more.

Primarily it was the dynamic between the father and the son that interested me—the father of a special needs child whom he couldn't reach and couldn't speak to. He had to learn a new way to communicate, as a parent. I found that deeply moving. I responded to it very strongly. In the process of choosing anything, it has to resonate with you first.

If you start to try and guess what an audience is going to like or what other people are going to like, you can find yourself in a lot of trouble. I went with my gut. We went ahead and made it.

Can you talk about "24" the movie? Are you going to have a show with your father?

I am not going to make a pilot with my father. That's the easiest one to answer.

We managed to make 180 episodes of "24" in the time that it took us to finally get a script for "24" the movie, which is our perspective on this development process in the feature film world. It's a tight collection. It's been hard. One of the things that was actually difficult is that we made more than 190 episodes of "24." We covered an amazing amount of ground.

So to try and develop a feature film that is going to be as unique as we would like it to be, and yet maintain some kind of connective to the series, a very difficult task finally got to that place last year where we had a script that we were really excited about. Then all of a sudden, we realized we had a very short timeframe left between getting that put together—getting the actors that are needed, trying to get one of the very few directors that are were talking to, and just the physical requirements of pre-production finding into production.

I wanted to make it so badly that I was pushing, pushing, pushing. I realized that I was putting us in a position where

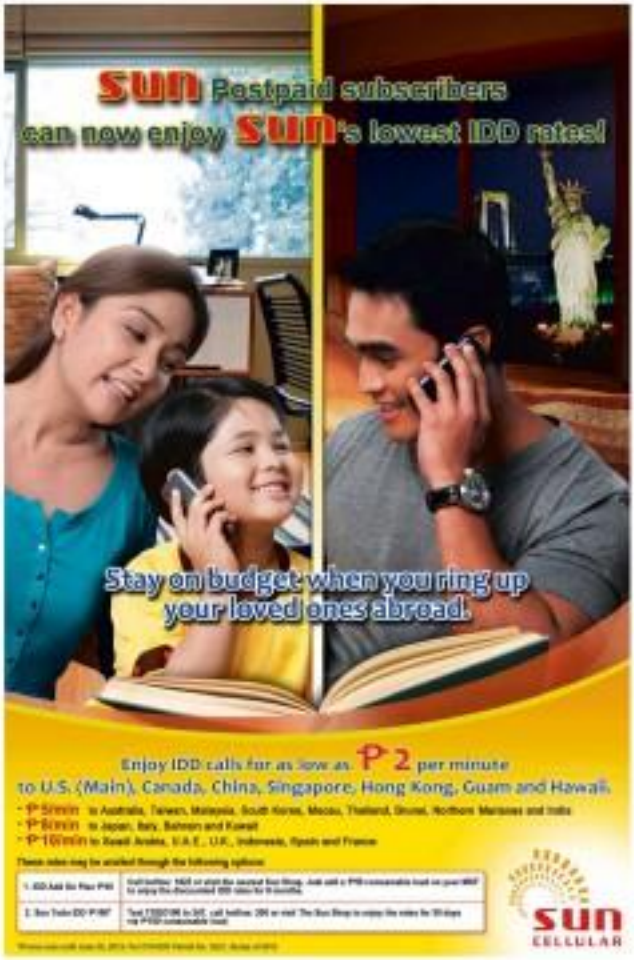
LOOK G!

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Mabuti Ti Nyhabis

KIEFER during his day with the press

"I am not doing a pilot with my father"



REPEAT At the launch last Saturday of Grace Lee's "Cooking with the Stars" show on GMA 7, guests who dropped by F. Ville Mag in Pasay (also the stage again for a repeat of "Sid & Elvis" appearance at the Mister Museum in Greenhills. P-Mag joins us in sending them to the [illegible] especially Senate President Jose Pimentel Enrile and Senator Ismael Sotto Enrile Cuenco. Call 851-9999, 721-0633 or 723-4736.

JOHN Rivers

NATALIE Portman

JOHNNY Depp

ANGELINA Jolie

Johnny Depp is 49; Angelina Jolie, 37

CELEBRITY birthdays this week:

June 4: Bruce Dern turns 76; Michelle Phillips (The Mamas and The Papas), 68; Ed Bellinger, 55; Russell Brand, 37; Actress Angelina Jolie, 37; Paramore drummer Zac Farro, 23.

June 5: Kenny G turns 56; Wes Craven, 73; Brian McKnight, 43; Mark Wahlberg, 41.

June 6: Paul Giamatti turns 45.

June 7: Tom Jones turns 72; Liam Neeson, 60; Prince, 54.

June 8: Joan Rivers turns 79; James Darren, 76; Nancy Sinatra, 72; Bob Seagar, 68; Sonia Braga, 62; Julianne Margulies, 43; Dan Futterman, 43; Karen Mok, 35.

June 9: Michael J. Fox turns 51; Johnny Depp, 49; Natalie Portman, 31.

KANYE West

SUE Morgueiso

EDWARD Maruelo, Megan Young, Empoy Marquez and Bernardo Cabral in "Hiyas"

The trouble with dating Bea

By Marinel R. Cruz

ZANJOE Marudo says the hardest part of dating actress Bea Alonzo is staying with her work schedule.

Bea is in Vienna working on the John D. Lazatin romantic comedy "What I Did For Love," with John Lloyd Cruz. "When she comes home, I'll be in Baguio for another project," Zanjoe says. "She is flying in from there, and I might be gone when I get back to Manila."

He adds: "Before she left, she made me promise to always have time to talk with her. She said she still wants to be part of my daily routines. I have the feeling of missing someone. I can't imagine myself ... miss looking at her beautiful face."

Being with Bea has taught him to be more expressive, the actor says. "I used to be uncomfortable about that. I've become more demonstrative now."

Zanjoe sat down with a group of entertainment writers recently to talk about his latest TV project, "Precious Hearts Romances Presents Hiyas," about a tribal warrior named Silang.

You were last seen on TV in the adult drama "Stainless." Which role is more daring?

I chose more skin in this project than I did on "Stainless." Aliang lives in the woods; it's normal for him to be wearing just a loincloth.

What is it like working with Megan Young?

She's very professional, comes to the set prepared. She was doing another TV show while we worked on this one, but she never complained. I like working with people like her.

You finished shooting "Hiyas" last year. Do you feel bad about the delayed airing?

I'm glad that it's finally here, but we threw an idea.

Hercules, who is now a GMA 7 talent, was very vocal about her disappointment. She thought the project had been shelved.

I understand how she felt. She's known for her indie movies and this is her first big mainstream project, so she's entered about it.

("Hiyas" airs every day afternoon after "PBB Teen Edition 4 Uber" on ABS-CBN)

H'wood goes to the dogs

LOS ANGELES—Several new TV shows star dogs and their owners. CBS has "Dogs in the City," starring comic Jeff Garlin and businesswoman Jamie Silver.

Wednesdays starting May 30, Glover will try to help hound and human misbehaviors like joint custody after divorce or significant others.

CHEEK FACTOR

The pair moved on "A dog's behavior is shaped by the people in its life," he says.

"Dogs in the City" has a lot in common with "The Dog Whisperer with Cesar Millan" on the National Geographic Channel and "It's Me or the Dog" with Victoria Stilwell on Animal Planet. "Bad Dogs" is another Animal Planet show, although it uses video tape to capture misbehavior to, a test of users to see how far an owner's love stretches.

Bad behaviors among this month's puppies the rewards and redemption of shelter dogs. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals says between 3 million and 7 million companion animals enter shelters every year and between 2 million and 4 million of those are euthanized.

"Shelter Me," a PBS documentary is narrated by actress Katherine Heigl. It follows an animal control officer, adoption workers, female inmates who train rescue dogs, and military veterans who acquire former shelter dogs.

CBS will premiere a documentary called "One Nation Under Dog: Stories of Strays, Lunch Belonged" on June 18. AP

Kiefer Sutherland on his new girl...

Pretzeger G3

are would probably not make the love you often movies. So I had to finally stop think and just go, we're not going to get it in this doc ...

So when is this project going to happen?

Not till you now, I've been saying it's going to happen. It will. I'll do one's, it will be his no lack of effort on my part.

How did you spend your downtime between "24," the film, the play and "Touch"?

Well... it was six months of the play. Years were there months for the film. It took a year to adjust to not working everyday. Right before I started to work on "Melancholia," which was the first project I did, I had actually just stared into cost working. I took about a year to come down from all of that.

Did you plan music during that time?

That's the one thing that is constant. I do it late at night. That's something I do to relax. I played some shows in the park in New York. I did a little bit of travelling. I got to spend a lot of time with my youngest daughter who just graduated from NYU. In that time, I had a second grandson who was born so there was a lot of family stuff.

KIEFER Sutherland, right, with young "Touch" co-star David Mazouz.

One of the most important things about this show is uncovering the importance of geography and going the distance. Can you talk about some of your more transformative trips in the past where you went somewhere and you came back a different man?

The first trip I took was with a friend of mine, a drug-competitive artist named Andy. We both wrestled a break; we had been working very hard. We went to Hawaii. I was maybe 25. It was the first vacation I'd ever taken. We wanted to meet girls and have a good time. We had no idea that we had just gone to the most craps capital of the world. I remember we were both coming by the pool. We were so naive ... everybody else was rich. We found like kind of this guy couple that had gone there to die.

I looked at him and said, "We have to get out of here. This isn't working out." We couldn't get a flight out for a couple of days. We hung out on the beach. There's this film called "Constantine Smoke," where John Swelled spends a lot of time in the smoke-filled rooms doing a story and he comes back a different man. So the end of two weeks in Hawaii, I literally felt like that guy.

Another trip was in Ireland. I wouldn't have been more than 27. It was the first trip I'd ever gone on by myself. Ireland is a magical place. I travelled all through the north. I realized I would actually pick up a backpack, go somewhere not knowing a single person and it would be all right. That was a very important trip for me.

Then there was this trip to the Czech Republic for work. The country had spoken out from underneath the USSR. There was [a] trip to Prague that I had never seen in my life. That was the first place I had ever been where I saw people who weren't going to take a single day for granted. Travelling is unbelievably important ...

When you were younger and you saw your father in very steamy love scenes like in "Don't Look Now," how did you feel?

Pretty awkward. I remember I was sending "Don't Look Now" and I was about 13 or 14. I was like, she's a Older Christie! fucking me on. Maybe I could just block him out and pay

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E-mail the columnist at reyapublic_2002@yahoo.com. Follow him at http://twitter.com/reyapublicrelation.

On the...

Melissa Stefonowicz-Santiago's outburst during the pair's concluded televised impeachment hearings. At one point, the senator-judge dropped a four-letter word that ties in with the lawyer's.

Lieutenancies said coverage of the trial fell under "straight presentation of a breaking news event" and wouldn't be canvassed by the board.

The trial was given the classification Parental Guidance. There was no violation, she asserted, but pointed out that the public looked up to lawmakers, who should therefore conform themselves properly to public. She said the Board "continues to respect the goals of autonomy to networks and informs the public." Rapper San Diego.ft

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
2: PIRANHA 3DD (3D)
3: BORN TO LOVE YOU
4: STREET DANCE 2: THE RAVEN
5: MEN IN BLACK 3
6: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN (3D)
7: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN

GREENBELT 3
1: BORN TO LOVE YOU
2: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNSMAN

GREENBELT 5
1: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNSMAN
2: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
3: MEN IN BLACK 3
4: PIRANHA 3DD (3D)
5: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNSMAN

MARQUEE
1: MEN IN BLACK 3
2: PIRANHA 3DD (3D)
3: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN
4: BORN TO LOVE YOU

MARQUEE
1: MEN IN BLACK 3
2: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN
3: THE RAVEN
4: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
5: PIRANHA 3DD
6: MEN IN BLACK 3
7: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNSMAN

MARQUEE 4
1: PIRANHA 3DD (3D)
2: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN (3D)
3: BORN TO LOVE YOU
4: MEN IN BLACK 3

MARRIOTT MANILA
1: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
2: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNSTMAN
3: MEN IN BLACK 3
4: PIRANHA 3DD
5: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN
6: BORN TO LOVE YOU
7: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

MARRIOTT HOTEL
1: MEN IN BLACK 3
3: BORN TO LOVE YOU
3: PIRANHA (3D)
4: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN (3D)

For ticket reservations or purchases, text SureSeats to 2310 (for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com
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AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: MEN IN BLACK 3
2: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
3: PIRANHA 3DD (3D)
4: BORN TO LOVE YOU

SHANGRI-LA
1: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN
2: THE RAVEN
3: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
4: PIRANHA 3DD
5: MEN IN BLACK 3
6: BORN TO LOVE YOU
7: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNSMAN

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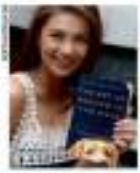

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- DARK SHADOWS
- BRAVE BLOCK
- LOST BOUNDARY FOR TWO
- BRAVE BLOCK 1 Digital 3D
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN in Digital 3D
- BORN TO LOVE YOU
- MANILA
- PRAHAN 3DD

MANILA

- BRAVE BLOCK 1 Digital 3D
- BORN TO LOVE YOU
- BRAVE BLOCK 1
- PRAHAN 3DD
- RESERVED
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN in Digital 3D

METRO EAST

- BRAVE BLOCK 1
- BORN TO LOVE YOU
- THE AVENGERS
- LOST BOUNDARY FOR TWO
- PRAHAN 3DD
- BRAVE BLOCK 1 Digital 3D
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN in Digital 3D

NOVALICHES

- BORN TO LOVE YOU
- PRAHAN 3DD
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN
- BRAVE BLOCK 1

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- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN
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- BRAVE BLOCK 1

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- BORN TO LOVE YOU
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN

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- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN
- BORN TO LOVE YOU
- PRAHAN 3DD

TACLOBAN

- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN
- BORN TO LOVE YOU
- THE AVENGERS
- BRAVE BLOCK 1
- BRAVE BLOCK 1 Digital 3D

ILOCOS NORTE

- BORN TO LOVE YOU
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN
- BRAVE BLOCK 1 in Digital 3D

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- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN in Digital 3D
- BRAVE BLOCK 1

BACOLOD

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- ONE FOR THE MONEY
- BRAVE BLOCK 1 Digital 3D
- BRAVE BLOCK
- RESERVED
- BORN TO LOVE YOU

ILOILO

- THE AVENGERS
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN in Digital 3D
- BRAVE BLOCK
- BORN TO LOVE YOU
- DARK SHADOWS

GENSAN

- BORN TO LOVE YOU
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN
- BRAVE BLOCK 1
- BRAVE BLOCK 1 Digital 3D

ANGELES

- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN
- PRAHAN 3DD
- BRAVE BLOCK 1
- BORN TO LOVE YOU

CALASIAO

- BORN TO LOVE YOU
- SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN
- BRAVE BLOCK 1
- BRAVE BLOCK 1 Digital 3D

PALAWAN

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Lance Raymundo...

From page H2

guilty, I wouldn't wear anything even slightly resembling DMG mesh in me."

He bought troll dolls in the United States. "They were the only things left in the store—no one wanted to buy them because they're ugly. The seller said Christmas all the way from Norway. I remember when my hairy chunks. It was a comedown, but all my artistic endeavors come through after I bought them in 2006."

He's been receiving gifts from supporters since he started performing as Wolf. "The first was a stuffed toy that came across a blanket. It's from this girl that I'm dating. I also got wolf ear muffs and hats."

LANCE transforms into partner Wolf for his stage act.

Accessories

"The pendant is interesting. This is actually my blood," Lance reveals. "A doctor friend who takes blood donations, helped me get this vial. My mother made it into a pendant. I don't think it's mythogenic."

Accessories are important because it completes your look, he says. "It's part of self-expression. You wear stuff that you think represent you. I wear them depending on how I feel. I have that native vibe nowadays, so I like using beads and ropes."

Footwear

"I'm a shoe boy at heart. I've grown up, but I still like the look I had at 13. That's why I have these pairs from Nike and Supra, a Japanese brand that's a favorite of hip-hop people," says Lance.

"I've learned to appreciate shoes that are more sleek, thanks to my stylist," he adds. "I prefer them in brown, beige, dark browns. I wear loafers with my shorts, and boots with my pants."

Eyewear

"Lately have two pairs of shades. I can't even find the other one right now!" Lance admits. "I don't always wear them...only when I feel crazy. I don't hide from the sun, I love it."

DVDs

Lance confesses to once having a music DVD buyer. "I've probably seen only 15 percent of what I've acquired. I think I have over 2,000 original DVDs. I'm schizophrenic here."

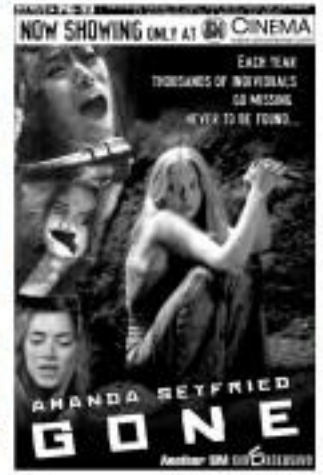
His favorite DVDs are those of Prince. "I like him, not because of his style but his musicianship. He plays all instruments," Lance says. "Also, I'm telling my mom so I have to be aware of what other people listen to. So, aside from my Joni Mitchell and James Brown DVDs and CDs, I also have Aaron Neville and Mary Davis."

MIB SUNGLASSES from Steve.com

TROLL dolls from Norway

HE'S ALSO into short shorts, which are popular methinks gays nowadays.

SLIPPERS shoes for Lance, another trait for WOLF.



Lance Raymundo, almost normal

OUT OF THE CLOSET

HE CONSIDERS this gnome a lucky charm.

SCORE of his feathers he used for the "Paranoia" video

NECKLACES with antler pendants are part of his new look.

HIS ACCESSORIES while promoting "Paranoia"

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Sulse Fonacier

"THE MEN don't complain."

Lance Raymundo shares this mantra when hunting for costumes and accessories for his fashion attire spot, dames Well. "I'm not vain [but] when you're maintaining a certain look, you have to make sacrifices," he tells Living Stars.

The shy and preppy-looking bellhicker we first saw on stage 10 years ago—now sings "dance-pop" tunes and wears colored pants, leather boots and headdresses—with horns on headpieces.

"I trust the people who handle my careers. My manager [Noah Sitandi] [backed] and my stylists really work for the best of their artists. We've successfully invented James Well," says Lance. "I have a Twitter following that's growing every day. People call me Well now. This means they've accepted him."

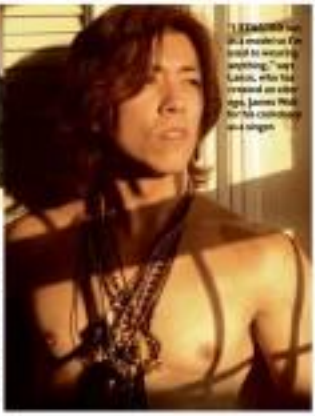
Lance recently created the "Well named" rebrand, he says, means "wonders of living and freedom." He is working on a 10-track CD scheduled for release later this year. "Fortunes," the careers single, caused a stir when its video was uploaded on YouTube last year.

The viral Lance says he prefers the "basic stuff," He explains: "I don't wear feathers in real life. When I go out, I wear tees and sneakers. Jeans aren't comfortable." However, he said, adjusting to the new look wasn't difficult.

"I started out as a model so I'm used to wearing anything. My stylists didn't have a hard time. I didn't resist them. It's part of the fun. I sometimes get out and feminist [since wearing all these accessories."

Lance started singing at a very young age. He recalls: "That's when I hit the high point. Then I stopped and went to school and lived a normal life. Years later ... I discovered that people were still open to having me back. That was heartwarming. They're welcoming me with open arms, with their tweets, giftwood presents to my shows."

CLOCKWISE from left: Lance shows off a custom-made suit designed with angel wings on the back; he likes to wear jeans when going out with friends; jeans can go well with formal suits, he says.



"I [HAVEN'T] let go of a model as I'm used to wearing anything," says Lance, who has released an album, James Well, for his choreography and singing.

Tops

"This is the first jacket that my stylist provided when I performed as James Well," he says, showing a leather piece with fur collar. "I wear very feminine so you'd get that. I'm a guy; I don't wear fur. But I'm an artist and I'm projecting a certain image. I also like wearing shirts that have pictures of my idols, like David Bowie."

Suits

"This suit was made for me by Alex Perona, with feather styling by Anna Arsenta ... In front, it's very sleek and elegant," says Lance. "At the back, it has angel wings. It screams, 'I'm a rock star!'"

"Not formal outfits, the most important consideration is the suit," he points out. "Wet suits were anything too loose."

Bottoms

"I follow trends; I'm not afraid to wear short shorts. I actually feel comfortable in them. Some are from Topman, some were made for me by Alex and Anna," Lance says.

He prefers skin-tan pants to loose pants. "Surprisingly, I'm comfortable wearing them," he says. "When I go out with friends, I like wearing this (a pair of ripped vintage dresses). I wear colored and more trendy pants to dinner dates. My advice is to get a good pair of jeans—it's a man's uniform. You can wear them with formal suits nowadays," Lance says.

Memorabilia

"Paranoia" made news when it was released on YouTube the day before the arrest of Pampanga representative and former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in November 2011. Lance relates: "People released to the song as anti-GMA; in my TV interviews, I insisted that it was not. To prove it, I performed 'Paranoia' in a TV appearance wearing a mesh bruce decorated with feathers. To me it's a fashion accessory if I was [ANGLE] ME.

342nd FOUNDATION DAY
SPECIAL REPORT
www.makati.gov.ph

Makati at 342

Aiming for Sustainability and Resiliency

By Mayor Jejomar Erwin S. Binay Jr.

CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE. Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin S. Binay (right) and Acting City Administrator Atanacia A. de Veyra (2nd from right) engage in light banter with a mixed group of centenarian city residents during one of their regular visits to their barangays. Hundreds of residents – from the very young to the elderly – took to meeting and exchanging tips in their respective barangays for the chance to express their concerns and thank city leaders for the services and benefits they receive from the city government.

Makati remains the country's financial center. The city is the top global outsourcing destination in the Philippines and ranks sixth among the Top 8 Global Outsourcing Cities in the world.

We are known and admired for successfully bringing to our people the quality education, health and social service programs, and modern infrastructure that they deserve to augment and elevate.

The role of Makati as its pre-eminent position of leadership is largely due to a cooperative and collaborative fusion of the private and public sectors. Our brand of governance is participative in nature, anchored on the principle that government exists not as much to regulate and make life difficult for the private sector, as it is to cooperate with them and together stimulate the economic growth of the city.

A stable, caring and compassionate government – that is the legacy of my father, now Vice President Jojo Binay that I have been mandated by the people to continue and build upon.

When I took on the reins of the city leadership, I knew that Makati needed to maintain its competitive edge and always stay one step ahead of the competition, whether locally or globally. Government and its services should also keep pace with the new normal; it is up to the fullest the boundless potentials of modern technology. We also needed to ensure Makati's long-term financial stability to sustain the programs and services that have defined the Binay administration.

As of December last year, our total revenue collections stood at about 16 billion, surpassing the 2020 total collections of over P9.8 billion by 163 percent. The bulk of collections came from business license, followed by real property tax.

The increased revenue, accompanied by a 12.8 percent increase in the number of establishments, showed that we made a positive decision in continuing the sound fiscal initiatives of the past administration. These include a moratorium on tax increases, issuance of 90-day business permits enabling businesses to start operations while complying requirements, and the implementation of the Computerized Smaller Real Property Tax Payment in 14 barangays, which is not fair and convenient for residents and business owners alike.

We have invested in modern and green infrastructures, such as the 33-storey Makati Parking Building that will house offices occupying the old municipal hall and provide parking space for clients and visitors to City Hall.

In order to draw in new investors and keep the current ones, we have constantly hurdled up the capability of our tax collectors to maximize taxes and codes in the city.

For many years now, we have been providing much support to the city police force, including new patrol cars and motorcycles, handheld radios, guns and ammunitions, additional allowances, and subsidized hospitalization under the yellow card. Recently, four new fire trucks have been turned over to the Bureau of Fire Protection Makati, and eight more fire trucks will be procured this year.

Recently, two icons of our superior programs on public health and education, Ospital ng Makati and University of Makati, have gained world class recognition after securing their ISO 9001:2008 certification by SGS Philippines. The university of Makati is the first locality-run university in the country to be ISO certified.

Our P1.6 billion investment in education in 2013 has reaped dividends for the city. For the third straight year, Makati ranked number one in the high school National Achievement Test in the National Capital Region. Our students also brought home medals from international competitions. Other graduates have obtained high board passing rates and employability because of our strong and growing partnership with industry leaders under the dual university-education system.

The Makati Training Placement and Livelihood Center has empowered many residents and out-of-school youth through securing gainful employment and entrepreneurship.

Makati today remains one of the healthiest cities of Metro Manila, with the lowest malnutrition prevalence rate, for programs on newborn screening and expanded immunization were recognized anew by the Department of Health and The World Health Organization.

For the issue prepared under interest in the country, we earmarked around P181 million for their benefits, which include unlimited free services to seniors in upscale Makati dentists. Aside from free rides on their birthdays and golden wedding anniversary (around 50,000 SLC card holders received P96 million in cash gift and P9 million in burial assistance).

Our anti-drugs campaigns led by the Makati Anti-Drug Abuse Council has been recognized by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency as worthy of replication in other localities.

Makati was chosen as role model city for the global campaigns to make cities resilient by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and were, for the second straight year, the Grand KALASAG in the highly urbanized category.

To reduce our carbon footprint, we have replaced the incandescent bulb-type traffic signals with LED traffic lights in 36 intersections in the city. Recently, the LTFRB granted franchise for 24 units of electric jeepneys or e-jeeps in the city that ply the so-called Green Routes, offering free rides under the "Libreng Sakay" program from Mondays to Fridays.

We also launched the Green Urban Design Center last year at UMak to empower the barangay and local leaders in bringing about livable and climate resilient communities.

Makati is now determined to set the trend and be a compelling force that will spur concerted efforts towards disaster preparedness and resiliency throughout the nation.

Makati recently hosted the third and last leg of the City-to-city sharing initiative under the world Bank-hosted Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. The cities of Quito in Ecuador, Kathmandu in Nepal, and Makati took turns in hosting timely and residency items, where they shared disaster risk reduction and management practices and identified best practices worth replicating in their respective localities.

We plan to expand the implementation of the Makati Risk-Sensitive Urban Development Plan (here in pilot site), Barangay Bond, to the other high risk barangays in the eastside and southeast quarters of the city.

The city government aims to make Makati a model of effective traffic management in the country through initiatives that include Automated traffic signals management system, The Rapid Transit System, e-jeepney, and EDSA to Taft and Makati Loop Monorail.

The city is currently updating its Comprehensive Land Use Plan as mandated by the Local Government Code and RO 72. Also we are working on the Formulation of the Billboard and Signages Master Plan. The city government and the private sector are working on an ordinance called the Makati Green Code that will incentivize the use of green technology in all public and private buildings in the city.

We have started this year the remodeling of the 25-storey City Hall to make it a "green building". We have also begun the construction of a new full-service Ospital ng Makati in District 1, which will integrate green features aside from meeting international standards.

This June, we will begin implementing an increase in the cash gift for the elderly in their 70's and 80's to help defray their medical expenses, in view of their increased vulnerability to illness. Those aged 70 to 75 will receive P1,500 in June and another P1,500 in December, while those 80 years old and above will receive P2,000 for each tranche.

We will also start rationalizing Makati into the country's first wireless city by providing free wi-fi connection to residents. We intend to open this year a one-stop shop to make business transactions with the city government faster and more convenient.

Lastly, the city government is planning to incentivize the employment of qualified Makati residents via tax incentives to Makati-based companies. We are drawing up a system to track the hiring of our residents and duly reward those that support our thrust of boosting employability of our residents.

As we celebrate the Makati Founding Anniversary of Makati, we gratefully acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our partners in the private sector as well as the unwavering support and cooperation of our constituents. Together, we have achieved so much. May we continue to strengthen our resolve as we jointly pursue new initiatives to promote safer, healthier and world-class communities not only within Makati, but throughout the country. Let us also work hand in hand with our sister localities as we explore more avenues of mutual cooperation that will promote economic development and sustainable growth for the entire metro.■

Makati City Hall towers above residential villages against the backdrop of skyscrapers in the Central Business District.

Makati all set to implement Grades 1 to 7 curriculum

The Department of Education-Makati is all set to implement the curriculum for Grades 1 and 7 on the opening of classes on June 4 as part of the implementation of the Kindergarten to 12 (K to 12) program.

In a report to Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay, DepEd-Makati officer-in-charge Priscila De Sagun said all the teachers who will be handling Grade 1 and Grade 7 (first year high school) are now undergoing a series of trainings for the K to 12 education program curriculum in time for the start of classes.

De Sagun said with the implementation of K to 12, elementary will still consist of grades 1 to 6 while grades 7 to 10 will comprise junior high school, which will still be four years. On the other hand, Grades 11 to 12 will form senior high school, she said.

Meanwhile, city-owned University of Makati has chosen to pilot test the K to 12 program, offering senior high school or Grades 11and 12 also this coming school year.

The K to 12 program is a revision of the 10-year basic education system implemented in the country that consists of six years of elementary and four years of high school. It has a kindergarten as basis, followed by six years of elementary (Grades 1 to 6), four years of junior high school (Grades 7 to 10), and two years of senior high (Grades 11 to 12).

"The K to 12 program hopes to decongest the curriculum by spreading lessons over 12 years instead of cramming them into 10. It is expected to fill in the deficiencies and strengthen the students' competencies in core subjects such as English, Math, and Science," De Sagun said.

The K to 12 also aims to do away with college remedial classes by improving the quality of high school instruction, thus upholding the rights of Filipino children who, at 16 or below, are legally and emotionally still kids unprepared for university education or for work.

De Sagun said the new Grades 1 and 7 curriculum will use the so-called "spiral progression approach" that aims to teach students more upon entering high school.

She cited as an example Mathematics, which high school students learn one by one through the years (Dati is, general Math in first year, Geometry in second year, Algebra in third year and Trigonometry in fourth year). But under this K to 12 curriculum, those in first year (seventh graders) would be introduced to the basics of all the said mathematics subjects.

De Sagun said the training also involved the Mother Tongue Curriculum that will alter the implemented starting academic year 2012-2013, in which Tagalog will be the medium of instruction in the National Capital Region.

Under the guidelines of Department of Education, the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) will be implemented in all public schools specifically in kindergarten, Grades 1, 2 and 3. It will be executed in two modes: as a learning/subject area and as a medium of instruction.

Meanwhile, the annual school cleanup, Brigada Eskwela, has already started in the 30 public elementary and high schools in the city.

De Sagun said although Makati has been able to maintain its school buildings, facilities and classrooms all year-round through its shared engineering offices, volunteer parents, students, teachers and other stakeholders have been doing the cleaning and decorating of classrooms, gardening and covering of books.

The Brigada Eskwela is the yearly schools maintenance program of the Department of Education that aims to make schools conducive to learning, while at the same time giving the opportunity for a community to come together for a worthwhile undertaking.

Mass wedding at City Hall

As part of the ongoing celebration of 342nd Araw ng Makati, Mayor Jejomar Erwin S. Binay solemnized the traditional mass civil wedding dubbed "Kasalang Bayan" at City Hall last Wednesday, May 30, at four in the afternoon.

A total of 29 couples who had decided to tie the knot after over five years of living together took their vows before Binay in the city-sponsored ceremony. Participating as principal sponsors were Atty. City Administrator and Makati Social Welfare Department Head Margelie A. de Veyra, the City Councilors, and one ninong (godfather) and ninang (godmother) ceremony chosen by the bride and groom.

Binay said the project is for the benefit of unmarried couples in the city who have been cohabitating for several years.

"The traditional Kasalang Bayan is aimed to legally unite live-in couples, particularly those who have been unable to get married due to financial constraints. Since it is free, the beneficiaries need not worry about expenses for the wedding as well as the reception," the mayor said.

After the wedding ceremony, the newlyweds were treated to a reception with the usual trappings, including cake-cutting, the wedding toast, and gift-giving.

Prior to the wedding day, the beneficiaries underwent orientation, Pre-Marriage Counselling, and Family Planning, among others. They were also asked to submit necessary documents for marriage as provided in article 34 of the Family Code of the Philippines.

The city government through the Makati Social Welfare Department (MSWD) organized the mass civil wedding. Through public announcements, the MSWD invited live-in couples residing in Makati who have been living together for five years or more, without legal impediments, with or without children, and are both of legal age, to avail themselves of the program.

Indigent Makati residents, dependents get continued PhilHealth coverage

Some 97,000 indigent Makati residents and their dependents will continue to enjoy access to health care anywhere in the country under a new agreement between the city government and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) signed by Mayor Jejomar Erwin S. Binay recently at City Hall.

Under the Partial Subsidy Scheme provided in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), enrolled members can enjoy extended coverage of inpatient at no cost to the local government. At the same time, the City government will be exempted from paying the increased premium rate that will take effect this July, one other enrollees using the old rate until December 2013.

"We are glad that PhilHealth recognizes our continuing efforts to acquire universal health insurance coverage for our underprivileged constituents. Through this agreement, thousands of residents and their families will continue to have access to quality health care not only in Makati but wherever there are PhilHealth accredited service providers," Binay said.

Binay was joined by Dr. Eduardo R. Banzon, PhilHealth president and CEO, and other key officials of Makati and PhilHealth on the signing ceremony.

In 2007, PhilHealth officially acknowledged Makati as the country's first local government unit to attain universal health insurance coverage after its sponsored members reached 75,000.

The new MOA serves to address the non-inclusion of a big number of Makati-sponsored PhilHealth members among those identified in the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012 had provided subsidy for health insurance premium only for those listed in the NHTS-PR.

The last proviso: Mayor Binay is immediately signify his continued commitment to the National Health Insurance Program, for which the city government has allotted P82 million this year. In response, PhilHealth offered the Partial Subsidy Scheme to the city, which has been formalized through the MOA.

Under the scheme, the coverage of PhilHealth-sponsored that was valid until December 31, 2011, which will be renewed by the city government for one year until December 31, 2012, will be extended to March 31, 2013. On the other hand, those that will be renewed for two years until December 31, 2013 will be covered until June 30, 2012. Both extensions will be at no cost to the city government.

The increase in premium contribution to take effect this July will also be waived for Makati, so that it will pay only P900 per member for one-year enrollment, and P1,800 for two-year enrollment.

According to the PhilHealth Assistance Service Office under the Makati Social Welfare Department, applicants are required to present their PhilHealth card and submit the following: latest Comelec ID Certificate, latest Barangay Certificate of Indigency, registered Marriage Contract (previously) and registered Birth Certificate of children 20 years old and below. The office is located on the 4th floor of the new Makati City Hall.

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As part of 342nd Foundation Day celebration

Makati fellowships with sister LGUs

As part of its 342nd Foundation Day celebration, Makati City officials led by Mayor Jejomar Erwin S. Binay had a fellowship dinner on May 25 at the World Trade Center with some 1,852 delegates coming from 356 sister local government units (LGUs). The mayors, councilors and delegation members of the sister LGUs later met with Vice President Jejomar Binay.

Vice President Jejomar C. Binay welcomes delegates from sister LGUs during the Fellowship Dinner held at the World Trade Center on May 25 as part of the 342nd Foundation Day of Makati

"Makati City continues to give premium importance its sister cities and municipalities because we regard them as our partners in nation-building. It is through collaboration and cooperation that local governments can accomplish more on any front," Mayor Binay said.

The delegates also witnessed the Makati Grand Parade spectacle where unique and colorful performances by residents were featured on May 26, Saturday. In the evening, they were treated to a carnival show dubbed "Karnaval sa Makati" at the Makati Coliseum.

Makati and 11 LGUs later signed a sisterhood pact through their mayors, as represented by Oscar Camantiles representing Bogan, Benguet; Ernesto Magalona for Batalan, Camarines Sur; Filipina Grace Amerkia for Infanta, Quezon; and Herminia Musmalibu, Famy, Laguna, all in Luzon.

The LGUs from Visayas as represented by their respective mayors include Rene Cordero representing Estancia, Iloilo; Danardo Espina, Sr. of Kawayan, Biliran; Ian Christopher Escario, Barangay, Cebu; Dindo Rios, San Fernando, Romblon; Christine Garin, Guimbal, Iloilo; and Norberto Raymundo, Jr., Libertad, Antique. The sole delegation from Mindanao was the local government of Gingoog, Zamboanga del Norte, led by Mayor Floro Villanueva.

The city government of Makati has been establishing ties with local governments from the time that Vice President Binay was the mayor to foster sharing of best practices and economic and social assistance with each other.

Makati offers assistance that would enhance the literacy rate of students from sister LGUs, such as computer units and books. Mayor Binay has announced that qualified students from sister LGUs will be given scholarship at the Makati Science High School upon the completion of its new building. He said that qualified students will also be given a stipend and accommodations inside the school campus.

"Constituents of our sister LGUs can also avail of medical services offered by Ospital ng Makati," he said.

The 356 LGUs that will attend the Foundation Day include, from the Cordillera Autonomous Region – Buray, Bangued, Boliney, Manabo, Pilar, Sallapadan, Tineg, San Isidro and Villaviciosa of Abra; Flora and Pudtol of Apayao; Mankayan, Mount City, Bakun, Itogon, Kabayan, Kapangan, La Trinidad and Atok/upon of Benguet; Banaue and Hungduan of Ifugao; Tabuk of Kalinga; and Bauko and Tadian of Mountain Province.

From Region I – Sta. Cruz and Sta. Lucia of Ilocos Sur; Laoag City and Solsona of Ilocos Norte; Agoo, Bauang, Burgos, Naguilian and Sudipen of La Union; and Alaminos City, Asingan, Bolinao, Labrador, Mangaldan, Natividad, Rosales, San Carlos City, San Fabian, Sto. Tomas, Tayug and Villasis of Pangasinan; Region II – Baggao, Enrile, Gonzaga, Iguig, Lasam, Peñablanca and Tuguegarao City of Cagayan; Cauayan City, Palanan, San Guillermo and San Pablo of Isabela and Solano of Nueva Vizcaya.

Region III – Olongapo and Iba of Aurora; Samal of Bataan; San M. Naliosbot, Licab, Nampicuan, Sta. Domingo and Talugtug of Nueva Ecija; Masantol, Minalin and Sto. Tomas of Pampanga; Capas, Gerona, Anao and Victoria of Tarlac; and Calaguiman, Masinloc, Palauig and San Felipe of Zambales.

Region IV-A – Lobo, Malvar, Mabini and San Juan of Batangas; Gen. Trias, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Rosario and Tanza Municipal of Cavite; Famy, Lumban, Lumban, Paete, San Pedro, Pila, Pagsanjan, Victoria and Magdalena of Laguna; Agdangan, Alabat, Atimonan, Buenavista, Catanauan, Gumaca, Infanta, Pagbilao, Padre Burgos, Plaridel, Sampaloc, San Narciso and Tayabas of Quezon; and Dumaran, Taytay and San Mateo of Rizal. Region IV-B – Sta. Cruz and Torrijos of Marinduque; Abra de Ilog, Calintaan, Looc, Magsaysay, San Andres and San Francisco of Occidental Mindoro.

Region V – Jovellar, Libon and Sto. Domingo of Albay; Bacacay, Tabaco, Jose Pangandaman, San Lorenzo Ruiz, San Vicente, Sta. Elena of Camarines Norte; Balatan, Bula, Calabanga, Camaligan, Canaman, Del Gallego, Gainza, Goa, Libmanan, Nabua, Pili, Sipocot, Tigaon of Camarines Sur; Baao and Pandan of Catanduanes; Irosin, Donsol, Magallanes and San Pascual of Masbate; and Isabel and Sorsogon City of Sorsogon.

Region VI – Makato, Malay and Nabas of Aklan; Bugasong, Libertad, Pandan, San Jose de Buenavista, Sebaste and Tibiao of Antique; Cuartero, Dao and Dumarao of Capiz; Ajuy, Carles, Dumangas, Estancia, Guimbal, Iloilo City, Janiuay, New Lucena, Pavia, Pototan, San Miguel, Tigbauan and Tubungan of Iloilo; and Hinoba-an, Murcia and Silay City of Negros Occidental.

Region VII – Balisan, Carmen, Cortes, Danao, Dimiao, Getafe, Jagna, Loay, Pilar, Sagbayan, Tagbilaran City and Talibon of Bohol; and Barrugan, Carmen, Compostela, Dalaguete, Liloan, Pinamungajan and San Fernando of Cebu.

Region VIII – Almeria, Biliran Province, Calubian and Kawayan of Biliran; Gusan, Ormoc and Libertad of Eastern Samar; Alang-alang, Barugo, Burauen, Dagami, Dulag, Hindang, Julita, MacArthur, Mayorga, Palompon, Pastrana, Tabontabon, Tanauan and Tolosa of Leyte; Zumarraga at Samar; and Pintuyan and Saint Bernard of Southern Leyte.

Region IX – Bongao of Tawi-Tawi; GASAGA – Buenavista of Agusan del Norte; San Francisco of Agusan del Sur; Sison and Pilar of Surigao del Norte; and Cantilan, Lianga, Carrascal and Tandag of Surigao del Sur.

Region X – Kolambugan and Sapan of Zamboanga del Norte; Dumalinao of Zamboanga del Sur; and Tungawan of Zamboanga Sibugay Region X – Baungon, Kadingilan, Kalilangan and Talakula City of Bukidnon; Baroy of Lanao del Norte; Oroa en Ramain and Marawi City of Lanao del Sur; Calamba and Oroquieta City of Misamis Occidental; and Balingasan and Initao of Misamis Oriental.

Region XI – Compostela of Compostela Province; Digos City of Davao del Sur; and Mati City of Davao Oriental. Region XII – Malkum and Glan of Sarangani; Lebak and Kalamansig of Sultan Kudarat; and Tantangan of South Cotabato.